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Windischmann in action for the United States against Czechoslovakia in the 1990 World Cup ... but he seems to be surplus for 1994.

AMERICANS LEAVE THE CAPTAIN BEHIND

BY PAUL GARDNER

MIKE WINDISCHMANN, United States' World Cup skipper at Italia 90, is not – apparently – wanted for the long haul up to 1994.

Windischmann is one of three members of the 1990 squad not offered new contracts by the US Soccer Federation. The others are Eric Eichmann and Brian Bliss.

The background to the contracts is rooted in the absence of a pro league in the US. To compensate, the USSF owns players' contracts, paying them direct, and negotiates transfer deals for them to European clubs.

At the time of Italia '90, the USSF had 16 players under contract – paying them an average of around £22,000 a year for full national team availability.

When time came, at the end of the year, to renegotiate, the renewal rate was surprisingly low. Only seven players were offered contracts: Paul Krumps, Jimmy Banks, Desmond Armstrong, Eric Wynalda, Bruce Murray, Marcelo Balboa and Peter Vermes.

A large part of the reduction can be accounted for by the players currently playing (mostly on loan) in Europe: Tab Ramos (Spain), John Harkes (England), Steve Trittschuh (Czechoslovakia), Paul Caligiuri (East Germany), John Doyle and Chris Sullivan (Sweden).

Who received offers and who did not? That was down to coach Bob Gansler, who hangs on to his job despite talk of Franz Beckenbauer, Bora Milutinovic and Johan Cruyff as possible replacements.

Brian Bliss has not been offered a new contract by the USSF.

Stoichkov banned for ten games

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

HEISTO STOICHKOV, Barcelona's £3 million Bulgarian, has been banned for ten matches by the Spanish Federation after stamping on the foot of referee Urizar Azpitorta in the first leg of the domestic Supercup.

Barcelona, who also had coach Johan Cruyff shown the red card in the first half incident over a disallowed goal, lost 1-0 to old rivals Real Madrid – and in their own Neu Camp stadium.

Midfielder Michel scored Madrid's goal in the 55th minute, setting up Real and new coach Alfredo Di Stefano to win the return 4-1 and the tie 5-1 on aggregate.

Stoichkov ... stamped on the referee's foot during defeat by Real Madrid.

Final whistle for bitter Vautrot

TOP French referee Michel Vautrot has quit. Vautrot's last match was the UEFA Cup third round return between Partizan Belgrade and Internazionale in Yugoslavia.

Before going a bitter Vautrot left no doubt about his disillusionment with the treatment referees receive in general, and he received in particular, at Italia '90.

Vautrot was involved in controversy for his handling of the opening match between Argentina and Cameroon as well as the semi-final between Argentina and Italy.

He says: "We were under orders to be strict so I did my best to play it by the book. But that was not the real Vautrot. I shall think with great sympathy of my colleagues who carry on. There is too much money in the game now."

Vautrot ... trying to deal with Diego Maradona during the Argentina-Cameroon match, the first of the World Cup in Italy.

Giorgio Ghezzi

GIORGIO GHEZZI, Milan's Champions' Cup-winning goalkeeper against Benfica at Wembley in 1963, has died aged 60. Ghezzi, who played six times for Italy between 1954 and 1961, retired in 1964 to run a hotel. His undemonstrative, brave style was a model for Dino Zoff. It also earned him the nickname 'Kamikaze.'

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Toyota Cup '90

Jubilant Ruud Gullit raises the trophy after Milan's 3-0 victory.

MILAN WORLD CHAMPIONS

Report from Jonathan Shallard

AC MILAN 3 – OLIMPIA 0 (Rijkaard 43, 65, Stroppa 62)

MILAN: Pazzagli, Baresi, Tassotti, Costacurta, Maldini (22 – F. Galli), Carbone, Donadoni (82-Gandenzi), Rijkaard, Stroppa, Gullit, Van Basten.
OLIMPIA: Azmeida, Fernandez, Caceres, Guasch, M. Ramirez (48.Chamas), Suarez, Heyn (68.Cubillas), Balbuena, Monzon, Amarilla, Samaniego.

Referee: Jose Ramiz Wright (Brazil) Linesmen: Shenglai Chen (China), Shizuo Takada (Japan) Crowd: 60,226 Kick-off: 12.00 Weather: Intermittent light showers, sunshine.

MILAN travelled to Tokyo to find their true selves in December's World Club Cup and became the first team to claim two straight Toyota Cup victories with a 3-0 triumph over Copa Libertadores holders, Olimpia of Paraguay.

In the process, Milan had the press-box leafing through their record-books and coming up with the following statistics:

It was the first time that any team had won two straight victories in the European-South American Cup since rivals Inter beat Independiente twice in 1964 and 1965.

It was the first time a European team scored three goals in one game since Ajax Amsterdam in the second leg against Independiente in 1972.

Only Flamengo (against Liverpool in 1981) had scored three goals in any of the eleven single-match finals since the event moved to Tokyo in 1980.

It was the first time Milan had scored three goals in any competition since last spring.

Milan became the first European team to win the title three times; Penarol and Nacional Montevideo. But while the 500 or so Milan fans in the capacity 60,000 crowd (including a group of 50 from the Milan supporters' club in Australia!) celebrated an Italian victory, there was no escaping the fact that this was a triumph made in Holland.

For it was Milan's Dutch trio of Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard who were at the centre of almost everything positive which Milan did in an increasingly impressive display.

Gullit, absent last year when Milan beat Atletico Nacional with a last-minute Evani free-kick, took Tokyo by storm, his spectacular appearance and thrusting right-wing surges thrilling the Japanese fans and creating uneasiness in the Olimpia defence.

Van Basten played a brilliant role throughout the 90 minutes, fetching balls in midfield, skipping past bruising tackles with that incomparable light-footed elegance of his, the classic and outstandingly intelligent modern striker.

And Rijkaard scored two headers, the first of them decisive for the chronology of the match, which together with his dominant ball-winning in midfield fully earned him the Toyota man-of-the-match award.

It was ironic almost that, after so many years of frustration at the unsatisfactory condition of The Tokyo Olympic Stadium pitch, the now perfect surface proved ideal for Milan to perform their best. Back home in Milan, the shocking state of the San Siro has prevented the European champions from developing their natural style, but in Tokyo the ball ran true and the Italians played with increasing confidence.

Olimpia had no complaints. Winners of the last World Club Cup in its old two-match format – when they beat the European runners-up Malmo 1-0 and 2-1 in 1979 – they had won the libertadores by the skin of their teeth and at times looked over-awed by their opponents.

RUUD GULLIT: The first goal really broke the ice and then we really started to enjoy ourselves with quick first-touch attacks.
It was good to hear the crowd react to the excitement of our naturally attacking philosophy in the second half.

Top libertadores striker Adriano Samaniego went into the match less than fully fit but veteran coach Luis Cubilla (who had been in charge in 1979 already) knew how important he was to the team.

But what danger Olimpia produced emanated essentially from the brilliant 20 year-old Luis Monzon in midfield, the brains of the team despite his early years, especially in the first half.

The match changed its course dramatically with Milan's first goal just before half-time. Until then, the Italians appeared to miss the injured iron-man Carlo Ancelotti more than they cared to admit, while last year's match-winner Alberigo Evani had also been left at home for treatment.

The edge had always been Milan's despite an extraordinary Tassotti failed square pass straight from the kick-off direct to Samaniego who was too astonished to connect properly from 18 metres. Amarilla went close at the end of a Monzon inspired attack after 16 minutes and Pazzagli had to move quickly to block Amarilla again after the lanky striker had outstripped the Milan defence after 35 minutes, Balbuena heading onto the roof of the net from the subsequent corner.

LUIS CUBILLA: The first goal was a defensive slip which cost us dear. We had been as good as Milan until then, but Milan left us behind in the second half. I've worked hard for ten years to get to Tokyo but we've lost to a superior team and now we'll go home and start all over again.

But generally Milan were on top. They came close twice on the quarter-hour, first a Gullit corner skimming three colleagues' heads and then a Rijkaard-Gullit move ricocheting to a surprised Van Basten who spun and shot just wide.

The Italians suffered a major blow after 22 minutes, however. Van Basten released Maldini down the left and the young fullback was heavily brought down by Fernandez on the goal-line. Appeals for a penalty (which the TV replays showed would have been justified) were forgotten as Maldini was stretchered away with a broken left collar-bone. Filippo Galli came on as substitute, Costacurta, moving to left-back.

A few minutes later, Rijkaard should have hit the target from 16 metres as Tassotti's cross was headed out from an increasingly anxious Olimpia defence. Rijkaard was set up for another long-range shot shortly after as referee Jose Ramiz Wright perceptively played the advantage after Fernandez had sent Van Basten cartwheeling in mid-air. The shot went side and Wright came back to book Fernandez.

As Milan stepped up the pressure, the goal came at last: Gullit invited Caceres to a succession of dummies on the left before hitting a long right-footed cross to the far post where Rijkaard outjumped a static Suarez to head into the top right-hand corner past a motionless Almeida.

Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi sent his men out for the second half to ram home the psychological advantage and they lost little time doing so, helped also by strong man Ramirez having to be replaced by Chamas with an ankle injury just three minutes after the break.

The Italians were creating a succession of chances, Carbone, Van Basten and Stroppa all shooting wide before the second goal fell after 61

ARRIGO SACCHI: We didn't know much about Olimpia so we had to start carefully and size them up. They had our respect but once we got the first goal, the true Milan started to play.

Triumph in Tokyo made in Holland

Man of the match Frank Rijkaard holds off Olimpia's Luis Monzon.

PAOLO MALDINI was expected to be out for at least six weeks as a result of breaking his left collar bone after 22 minutes an unwelcome addition to Milan's lost list of injuries.

Man of the Match Frank Rijkaard was only too happy to win a Toyota car as his reward. He told the post match press conference: "I bought a Toyota just over a month ago and my family has been asking me to buy them one, too!"

It was a disappointing end to 17 years in office for Olimpia club president Osvaldo Dominguez. "This was going to be grand finale for me," said Dominguez, "but it's been a great experience for all of our small country just to get to Tokyo and I'm sure we'll be back – with a new president."

The Japanese FA took advantage of the presence at the Tokyo match of international soccer media men to inform about Japan's plans to host the 2002 World Cup. Certainly the impression given by the customary excellent organisation can have done Japan's chances of staging the tournament no harm at all.

Introduced to the teams at the start of the match, Princess Takamado let it be known how happy she was to be there – having lived several years in London, the Princess is a keen Chelsea fan.

FRANK RIJKAARD: It's a great honour for the club, and for me personally it goes a long way towards making up for the disappointment of the World Cup earlier this year.

minutes.

Tassotti laid a perfect through ball over the Tokyo velvet turf to Van Basten who cut in from the right, committed Almeida and a defender before shooting. Fernandez tried to block it with his arm but the ball spun goalwards, where Stroppa was waiting to tap it in at the far post to make sure.

It was nothing less than Stroppa deserved for the magnificent way he performed on the left of Milan's midfield, especially after Maldini's premature exit.

Three minutes later, Van Basten was through again but his attempted lob was a poor one. Within seconds, however, he had made up for it, picking up a loose ball, riding a tackle to the edge of the area and releasing an exquisite chip over Almeida; the ball came off the bar and there was Rijkaard flying in for a spectacular diving header into the net.

By now, Milan were in full flight and reviving memories of past annihilations of Real Madrid and Steaua Bucharest, the Dutch trio virtually unstoppable..

Nevertheless, Amarilla reminded the Italians of his potential with a header which Pazzagli was happy to tip over and the Milan goalie was obliged to do the same again from Amarilla's shot.

Later in the half, the vigilant Baresi had to hook to safety after Passagli had parried Monzon's chip, but Olimpia were a beaten team – disconcerted, no doubt by the unreliability fo Almeida, suddenly looking every one of his 42 years in goal.

Stroppa twice, Van Basten twice, Rijkaard and Gullit all had valid chances to score as the European champions clearly enjoyed the freedom and confidence of a commanding lead. But their efforts to become the first European team to score four since Real Madrid in the inaugural final 30 years ago, finally came to nothing.

Instead, they were left with a lot of new friends, two more trophies for the sideboard, and a new target: to return to Japan in 1991 and become the first team ever to notch a classic intercontinental hat-trick...

MARCO VAN BASTEN: Until the first goal, it was not easy. But once we felt on top, we just got better and better. I had good game simply because the rest of the team did, especially on this good surface.

Marco Van Basten keeps control as Olimpia's Felipe Franco lunges and Jurge Guasch moves in.

BATTLING BACK

Gullit finds his real friends

BY SIMON KUPER

AT LAST – after 30 months, a fit Ruud Gullit is back in football.

An end to his career crisis was signalled by the goal against Sampdoria which helped earn Milan the European Supercup, then the cross which provided Frank Rijkaard's opening goal in the world club showdown in Tokyo.

Gullit at last looked the defence-breaker of old, the man football needs if the last World Cup is to be forgotten. "Gullit is really back," said happy team-mate Marco van Basten. But is he?

Gullitmania reached its peak in the spring of 1988, in his first season in Italy. He took Milan to the championship and Jimmy Greaves appeared on TV wearing one of his Gullit-hair hats.

He had a strong but relatively anonymous European championship, happily playing to help Van Basten, and while preparing for the new season he damaged his right knee. He took the original knock in a friendly against Parma, on August 3, 1988. Countless complications and three operations later, he is back.

Since that fateful meeting with Parma, Gullit has played barely 1,000 minutes of competitive football. It is a tribute to his greatness that in 1989 he was voted this magazine's World Footballer of the Year on the basis of three incomplete matches.

He played in the Champions' Cup semi-final against Real Madrid and was carried off; he scored two goals in an hour in the final against Steaua Bucharest; and he beat five Finnish defenders to let Wim Kieft score Holland's winning goal in a crucial World Cup qualifier, despite playing only the last 20 minutes. Enough, quite rightly, for World Soccer's readers.

Those few minutes were enough to keep him out of action for almost another year. While serving the interests of club and country, Gullit severely damaged his own career. It is a choice he now regrets.

He was fit just in time for Milan's next European final, a 1-0 victory against Benfica, but his helplessness must have moved even the Portuguese to pity.

The man in the No. 10 shirt looked like Gullit, he talked like Gullit, but as far as his play went Milan might as well have fielded their bus driver.

The World Cup showed not the slightest improvement. Holland flew home in shame as early as June 24. Remembering the European Championships – were they only two years ago? – it is no exaggeration to say that Gullit's knee determined the World Cup's destination. Apart from the Supercup, the only thing Gullit won in 1990 was Spitting Image's European Haircut of the Year.

His years out of football were unimaginably hard. In June 1989 he lost many close friends when an aeroplane carrying a Dutch West Indian team crashed. Then he went through a messy divorce, made infinitely worse than it need have been by the press, which stopped licking his feet and sprang for his throat.

"I'm disillusioned," he said. "I've learned that when people don't need you, you cease to exist."

One Italian newspaper tried to fake a photograph of Gullit buying drugs in a Milanese park. Others concocted a story that he was having an affair with an Italian journalist. There are many such examples.

The media, he was discovering, is much kinder to popular footballers than to sick rastafarians.

Gullit says the fans kept him going through the torment. "People who spoke to me on the street and gave me advice, what I should eat. People who came with powders. With marrow. Everything. People wrote that they had drawn my horoscope and told me I didn't need to worry."

Refusing

Still, there were conspicuously fewer Gullit hats on Dutch heads in 1990 than in 1988. More important, the captain lost friends within the Dutch national team.

It is a public secret that Gullit is the reason why Rijkaard is refusing to play for Holland. The two, friends since boyhood, fell out because Rijkaard felt that Gullit was trying to run the team despite playing badly.

During the World Cup, Rijkaard was at his peak and Gullit in a trough, yet Gullit persuaded Holland manager Leo Beenhakker to give him the coveted central role in midfield.

Rijkaard also was annoyed that Gullit refused to shut his mouth despite no longer performing with his feet.

Gullit brought down former manager Thijs Libregts, and during the World Cup he had a crashing row with Rinus Michels. Embarrassingly, Michels is now Holland's manager again.

Van Basten and Rijkaard call Gullit "guru" – a reference to his constant public pronouncements on politics and life.

These conflicts have put Gullit under pressure to play well for Holland. Unfortunately, he played as badly as the rest of the Rijkaard-less team in the recent defeats against Italy and Portugal. He sat out Holland's next match, claiming tiredness, and it was his bad luck that the Dutch played well and won 2-0.

The future is a question mark. Will Gullit reach his old level again? Will he take Holland to another victory in the European Championships in 1992? Will the Dutch qualify at all? Gullit has 50 caps. Will he break Ruud Krol's Dutch record of 83?

"I've been out of football and I know how hard it is to come back to the highest level," he says. "Every day is a battle. You have to experience it to understand what I mean. I fall back on my will-power every time."

Not even Gullit knows if he ever will come back, but what is certain is that he can. At the height of his troubles there were moments of the old Gullit: remember his goal from the one-two against Ireland, his volley into the top of the net against poor Steaua?

Such moments are infrequent nowadays: he must be able to do it all the time.

When Gullit feels happy again, when he trusts his body again, he will be the man of old.

The World Cup showed that the main problem with modern football is lack of space. Gullit's genius, through tireless running, tears defences apart. He helped Van Basten to five goals in the European Championship, but with Gullit ailing Van Basten failed to score in the World Cup.

In the spring Milan gave Gullit a three-year contract worth £850,000 a year. "We have waited a year and if necessary we will wait another one," says Arrigo Sacchi, the coach, who prefers Gullit to Gheorge Hagi, Karl-Heinz Riedle or any of the other suggested replacements.

Gullit is still only 28. And if Manchester United, Arsenal or Ipswich had been a little more clear-sighted ten years ago, he could now be playing in England.

Marco Van Basten, scored five goals in the European Championship. This one against England was one of a crushing hat-trick.

The media stopped licking his feet and went for his throat

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CLUB FOCUS

BRONDBY

BY JIM HOLDEN

Bent Christensen ... flood of goals earned him an international place.

DUCKLING TURNS

THE rise and rise of Brondby is a fairytale in the best traditions of one of Denmark's most famous sons, Hans Christian Andersen. The irresistible parallel is to the story of the ugly duckling.

The club began only in 1964, in a newly-developing working class suburb of Copenhagen. But Brondbyernes IF, to give the full title, shook off early derision to sweep gracefully to the summit of Danish soccer.

They have now been champions four times in six years, and it was a shock when they finished second twice.

While the traditional giant of Danish and Copenhagen soccer, KB – the oldest club outside Britain – flounders like a dozy duck in the lower divisions, the Brondby swan is transforming the style and substance of the nation's football.

Two men have been instrumental in this amazing success story and a third now aims to complete the job. They are Finn Laudrup, Per Bjerregaard and Morten Olsen.

Laudrup is a familiar name to football followers worldwide. Both Michael of Barcelona and Brian of Bayern Munich made their names with little Brondby, becoming players of the year in Denmark as teenagers before big-money moves abroad.

Morten Olsen ... flying start.

The club was the natural start because of father Finn, who now oversees their affairs. He was a skilful international in the 1960s before winding up his career with a last challenge at a new slightly ambitious club, working through first the "non-league" Danmarkesserien and then the proper divisions of the Danmarksturneringen.

Danish soccer was astonished when Laudrup moved to a small non-league outfit, and nobody could have predicted the outcome. He scored the goals which began the rollercoaster ride up the divisions and was coach as they made the breakthrough into the Third Division East in 1973.

Copenhagen is full of excellent clubs; Lyngby, KB, B93, B1903, Bronshoj, Hvidovre, Frem, Fremad Amager, Vanlose and AB. But Laudrup's inspiration put them all under a threat they were too slow to see coming.

Neighbours Hvidovre, the club where Brondby's Danish international goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel began his career, are now wasting away in non-league soccer: in 1973 Hvidovre were Danish champions.

Laudrup left the club in the mid-1970s, but his stylish legacy was sound. Brondby were promoted to the Second Division in 1978 and made it into the First Division in 1983. Two years later they were champions and they repeated the feat in 1987, 1988 and 1990. It is a formidable achievement.

Chairman Per Bjerregaard was entitled to celebrate longest and loudest. He was one of the founders in 1964 when two tiny "Sunday morning" sides, Brondbyoster and Brondbyvester, amalgamated. East and west coming together here long before their time!

Lars Olsen ... Denmark's captain with four championship medals.

Bjerregaard was a humble Copenhagen doctor with a passion for football, just like millions of enthusiasts all round the world who spend their spare time tending their precious local club instead of the garden. He too did not forsee what would happen.

But when Laudrup the father set the bangwagon rolling, Bjerregaard was the man with the necessary vision to complement ambition. He did the classic things, organised shirt sponsorships and the like to finance an amateur side in an amateur league.

An excellent 10,000-capacity municipal stadium provided a perfect home to entice fans from the other Copenhagen clubs. And football lovers drawn into an expanding capital city were naturally attracted to a new success story.

Bjerregaard also made sure Brondby played their biggest European club matches at the national Idraetsparken stadium. That helped finances and prestige. The last match in the old Idraetsparken was Brondby against Bayer Leverkusen in the UEFA Cup last November. The ground is now being rebuilt.

Having conquered Denmark so thoroughly, though. Bjerregaard knew Brondby would have to go a stage further if they wanted progression to continue. He set a ludicrously ambitious target of reaching the semi-final of a European competition by 1990.

To do that Brondby would have to

go professional. The initial motor for that was the success of the Danish dynamite national side of the mid-1980s who transformed soccer in the country. Beside such thrilling achievements, the domestic Danish league looked pallid and poor. Brondby's ability to rise so quickly in a way illustrated that perfectly.

Bjerregaard could hardly demand a professional club and remain an amateur himself, so he gave up his job as a doctor to run the club full-time. Finance, of course, always had been the reason why Danish soccer remained amateur. Low gates could not pay professional wages.

Brondby broke the mould by following the lead of Tottenham Hotspur in England, going public on the Stock Exchange. A huge injection of capital allowed the club to pay good wages and to fend off predatory foreign clubs.

For years Denmark's best players automatically went abroad. Now, if Brondby players were tempted, at least the club would get a realistic fee: £500,000 for Kent Nielsen, £800,000 for Brian Laudrup.

The system has helped Brondby keep their best players. They now have 10 with full Danish caps on the books.

Other clubs, of course, had to follow the Brondby locomotive to keep pace, and most Danish First Division clubs are now fully professional.

Next season the league is being reduced from 14 clubs to ten – a superliga designed to maintain and continue the increase in standards.

Bjerregaard's dream of reaching a European semi-final by 1990 was not achieved. The nearest they went was losing eventually to Champions Cup Winners FC Porto in a close quarter-final in 1987.

But this season Brondby have been on the Euro trail again, defeating Eintracht Frankfurt (5-0 in the home first leg) and Ferencvaros on the way to a UEFA Cup third-round tie with Bayer Leverkusen.

And so enters the third hero of Brondby, Morten Olsen, the new coach. The man needs no introduction to World Soccer readers; 102 caps for Denmark, still playing for IFC Koln at the age of 40, one of the great liberos.

History is fine, but as Olsen knows only too well it is tomorrow that counts in sport and football. "Yes, I've had a good start as manager," he says, "But if the results go badly then that will very soon be the end of it. Results ARE football when you are a coach."

I remember interviewing Olsen for World Soccer six years ago, on the eve of the 1984 UEFA Cup final, which he would lose with Anderlecht at Spurs. He vowed then he would never be a manager. At the age of 34 his mind seemed made up, the decision cast in stone.

"It was playing so long for Koln that changed me," he explains. "I became an assistant coach while I was still playing because they thought my experience would be of benefit. I was four years older than the real trainer.

"I found I enjoyed the experience that had lots of ideas I wanted to put into practice."

The most obvious is his introduction at Brondby of a "pressing" style of play that appalled the purists who saw Morten Olsen as a symbol of the beautiful game. He says: "Nobody had tried it in Denmark and it shocked any opponents. But we won the league by 11 clear points and went 25 games unbeaten after losing our first match.

Peter Schmeichel ... has become one of the world's best goalkeepers.

SUPER SWAN

And the fairytale has not finished yet

Kim Christofte ... went to Belgium and then to Switzerland before returning home and joining Brondby.

"Players have to realise that when you are a professional you play hard to win. And you look after yourself properly too when you are in full-time training. Of course, you enjoy playing the game, but as a professional you must have a hard ambition to be the best.

"Here at Brondby we have developed that, and the confidence that comes from winning helps it along. Doing well in Europe is a consequence of that. For so many years Danish teams went into Europe feeling and playing as underdogs, being negative if not defensive as well.

"We have been positive this season and have shown that Danish clubs can do what the Danish national side did in the 1980s – be successful with good, positive football. It is good to be part of that."

Olsen also is hoping that the introduction of the superliga next year will bring better domestic competition for Brondby. He explains: "Of course we want to win everything. But if we dominate the league by 11 points every year it will not help us to improve.

"I hope the other clubs will make it much harder for us next year because that will mean Danish soccer is improving overall. That is what we need.

"I'm very glad to be back in Denmark and I want to be successful here as I've been elsewhere."

Brondby are realistic enough to know that Morten Olsen will not stay too long at the club, perhaps just long enough to fulfil the European aim. He is enjoying the day-to-day involvement of coaching, but is lined up as the next manager of the Danish national side.

Yet there is no doubt they will have benefited by association with him. And the feeling is mutual. Olsen says: "Brondby are an example to every club in the world of what can be achieved if you have ambition and sense and determination to succeed. It is a very fine club and I have been lucky to begin another part of my soccer life here."

The tale of the ugly duckling will no doubt continue to inspire us for generations to come.

CONTINUED OVER

BRONDBY

CONTINUED

THE COACH

MORTEN OLSEN. Aged 41 (born August 14 1949). Regarded by many as the greatest player in Danish history, winning a record 102 caps. He began as a winger with local clubs Vordingborg and B 1901, but was converted in Belgium to become a brilliant libero, perhaps only second in the all-time ranks in that role to Franz Beckenbauer.

Had spells with Cercle Bruges, Racing White Molenbeek and Anderlecht in Belgium at the peak of his career, in which he also captained Denmark in the 1984 and 88 European Championships and the 1986 World Cup.

Was still playing with intelligence and great style at the age of 40 in the Bundesliga for IFC Koln, before retiring to become coach of Brondby last April.

Vowed

Six years ago, when interviewed for World Soccer, Olsen vowed he would never become a boss and wanted only to return to his home town of Vordinborg, famous for its crooked church spire, and resume his career as a owner of a paint shop. Some chance!

The decision to take over at Brondby has proved inspired. After losing the first match of the season to Frem, Olsen did not see his team lose again, wrapping up the title with five matches left.

There also was significant success in Europe, walloping Eintracht Frankfurt 5-0 in the UEFA Cup first round.

It seems only a matter of time before he takes up his natural station as manager of the Danish national side. With the current disarray under Richard Moller Nielsen, that is likely to be sooner rather than later.

THE PLAYERS

PETER SCHMEICHEL. Goalkeeper. Aged 27. (Born November 18 1963). Has matured into one of the best keepers in the world after impressing when pitched into the Danish side for the 1988 European Championships.

Brondby have so far warded off persistent transfer inquiries from abroad by a £1 million price tage. But Schmeichel is keen to play in one of the major European leagues and his personal preference would be for boyhood heroes Manchester United.

Began his career at Hvidovre, capped 38 times already. Voted Denmark's player of the year for 1990.

SOREN HANSEN. Goalkeeper. Aged 21. (Born April 17 1969). Has played only five matches for the club as understudy to Schmeichel. Would be unlikely to be first choice if Schmeichel was sold.

LARS OLSEN. Libero. Aged 29. (Born February 2 1961). Became captain of the Danish international side following the retirement of his boss Morten Olsen. No relation (Olsen is a very common Danish surname).

Excellent defender who has suffered only by comparison with his great predecessor. Played in the 1988 European Championships and has 47 caps. Reads the game well and sprints forward superbly to join attacks. Has won four Danish titles with Brondby, fair recompense for missing out on the traditional move abroad.

UCHE OKECHUKWU. Defender. Aged 23 (Born September 27 1963). Nigerian international snapped up by Brondby at a bargain price.

Admits he only agreed to join the club because he had read complimentary comments about Danish football in World Soccer's sister magazine, Shoot. Fiery temperament and already sent off once.

KIM CHRISTOFTE. Defender. Aged 30. (Born August 24 1960). Has had a superb season at the heart of Brondby's defence, and back in the international reckoning. Has four caps so far.

A chequered career has seen him play abroad with Lokeren in Belgium and Wettingen in Switzerland. Brondby bought him from great Danish rivals OB of Odense.

Jens Risager ... still a teenager and definitely one for the future.

JENS RISAGER. Defender. Aged 19. (Born April 9 1971). Has just broken into the sideand his immediate prospects may be hampered by a sending-off in the last match of the season against Ikast. Nevertheless, one for the future.

KIM VILFORT. Defender. Aged 28. (Born November 15 1962). Can play in defence or midfield, and his adaptability has won him regular international honours with Denmark. Often plays for his country as a wing-back and has 34 caps.

Ironically, began his career at Frem as a striker and played in that role for Lille in France before returning home. Still scores vital goals.

JOHN JENSEN. Midfielder. Aged 25. (Born May 3 1965). Like Vilfort he went abroad and then flourished on his return. Impressive performances in the 1988 European Championships won him a move to SV Hamburg, but he failed to establish himself in the Bundesliga.

Injury did not help and he was glad to return to the club where he began his career. An all-action player in the Bryan Robson mould. Another of Brondby's Danish internationals with 34 caps.

BJARNE JENSEN. Midfielder. Aged 31. (Born April 16 1959). A stalwart of the side who is highly respected in the Danish First Division.

A tough-tackling midfielder who provides solidity in the 3-5-2 formation and has won four caps.

ERIK RASMUSSEN. Midfielder. Aged 29. (Born December 24 1960). The revelation of the season. His sparkling displays have been at the heart of Brondby's amazing 25-match unbeaten run to the title and won him an unlikely call-up to the national side this season. Scored four goals along the way. Formerly with OB Odense.

RONNIE EKELUND. Midfielder. Aged 18. (Born August 21 1972). A bad leg injury curtailed his season. Already an under-21 international and one of Denmark's brightest prospects for the future.

Coach Morten Olsen believes he could be a world star in the 1990s if he continues to develop.

CARSTEN VAGN JENSEN. Midfielder. Aged 27. (Born February 28 1963). A surprise package this season, having been signed from B1903. Forced his way into the side at the end of the year.

HENRIK JENSEN. Midfielder. Aged 31. (Born October 25 1959). Very much a player in reserve towards the end of his career.

But another of the many Danish internationals in the Brondby squad, emphasising their strength in depth compared with other clubs.

JENS MADSEN. Midfielder. Aged 20. (Born February 1 1970). Under-21 international plagued by injury last season. Another bright prospect developed from Brondby's excellent youth system, not to be confused with the player of the same name from the Ikast club who is part of the Olympic squad.

BENT CHRISTENSEN. Striker. Aged 23. (Born January 4 1967). Top scorer in the Danish league with 17 goals from 26 matches.

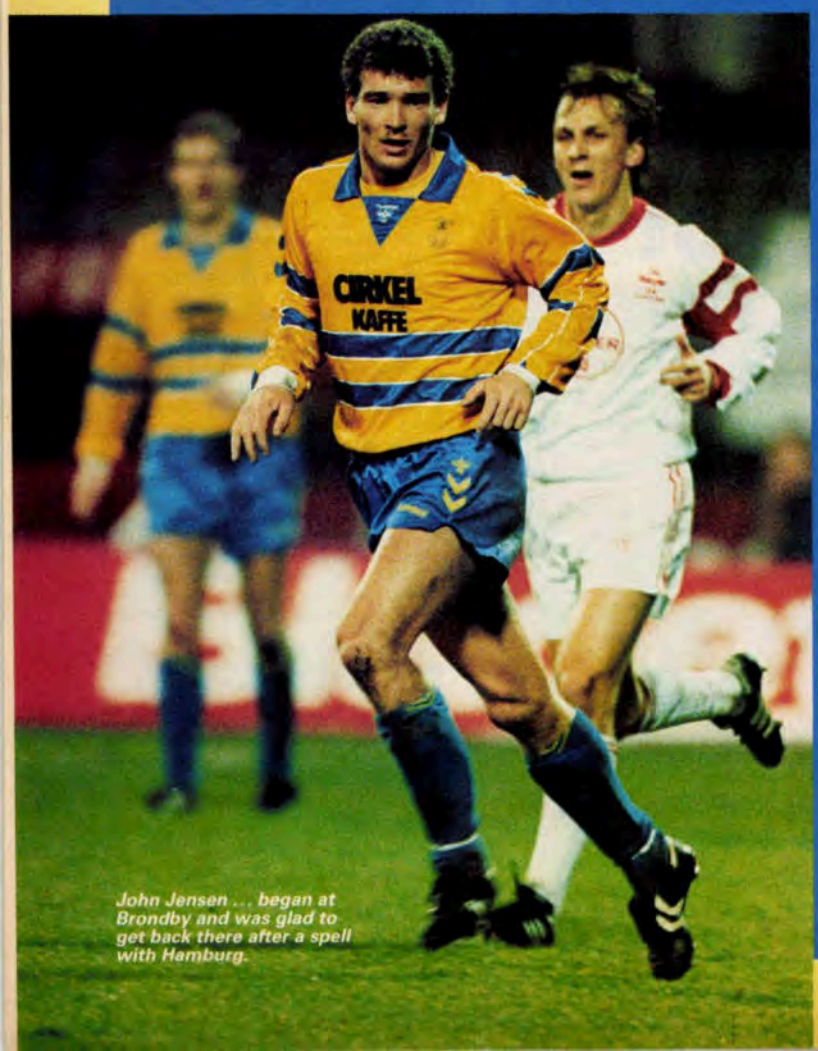
His goals won an international call and persistent rumours of a move abroad but is one of the new generation of Danes finding it possible to have an ambitious full-time career at home since the advent of professionalism.

TORBEN FRANK. Striker. Aged 22. (Born June 16 1968). Second top-scorer for the club last season with 10 goals and at the centre of a tug-of-war between Brondby and suburban Copenhagen rivals Lyngby.

They claim he has signed a contract to join them next season, but Frank doesn't want to go. Has won seven under 21 caps and played for the Olympics side.

FRIDAY ELAHOR. Striker. Aged 23. (Born November 11 1967). The other Nigerian international signed by Morten Olsen to boost his squad last year. Is taking longer to acclimatise than Okechukwu and has scored only one so far. If Frank is forced to leave his chances may be increased.

FRANK PINGEL. Striker. Aged 26. (Born May 9 1964). Has failed to become a regular since returning from an unproductive spell in England, alongside Mirandinha at Newcastle. Suffering from loss of confidence and managed only three goals all season. Began his career with AGF of Aarhus. A return to Jutland is not out of the question.



John Jensen ... began at Brondby and was glad to get back there after a spell with Hamburg.

THAT'S ENOUGH!

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Maradona threatens to quit

DIEGO MARADONA may walk out on Napoli and soccer altogether before the end of the season.

Argentina's World Cup captain, entangled in court action over a paternity suit as well as being sued by his club for contract breaches, says he has had enough.

"I just want some peace and quiet," he said. "I've put up with more than enough. It's looking like the end. I want to enjoy life with my family. I want to go back to Argentina for good."

Maradona, now 30, has repeatedly clashed with Napoli officials this season, missing training sessions and twice refusing to travel with the team to away matches – the Champions' Cup visit to Moscow Spartak and the Italian Cup game against Fiorentina.

Contract considerations do not appear to enter into Maradona's calculations. He said: "No contract is going to curtail my freedom."

Speculation has been rife in Italy that Maradona might be considering a move to France, or even Japan, to escape the pressure. He is adamant that he will not play for Argentina again, despite the optimism being shown by the new national manager Alfio Basile.

Napoli have taken Maradona's Liechtenstein-based promotions company – Diarma Establishment – to court because they claim the tantrums had hit his earnings value.

Napoli, who contribute towards Diarma in exchange for a share in its earnings, said they should be allowed to reduce the contribution because they expected a fall in profits.

A spokesman quoted club president Corrado Ferlaino as saying: "Following Maradona's tantrums, Napoli believe the player's image has been devalued and that the profits will not be as high as previously forecast."

Napoli expect their share to fall by around £3 million between now and 1993, when their contract with the company – and with Maradona – comes to an end. The club said they had entrusted their payments due until 1993 to a judge and asked him to freeze them.

Maradona makes about £1.2 million a year from his contract with Napoli, and at least three times as much from personal contracts with commercial sponsors in Europe and Asia.

In his newspaper column he described Napoli's legal antics as "a stab in the back" and "an act of cowardice," and added: "If they planned to take me to court they should have given me a warning at least."

Simultaneously, judges dealing with a paternity claim by a Neapolitan woman, Cristina Singra, ruled that Maradona must undergo a DNA test. His lawyers have appealed. Cristina alleges that Maradona is the father of her four-year-old son.

Back in Buenos Aires, Argentina manager Basile appeared oblivious to Maradona's all-round retirement threats, naming him as the only European-based player who featured in his plans for the 1991 South American champions.

Selection

This, of course, means a major rebuilding programme, because only two members of the team beaten by West Germany in the World Cup final in July are now in Argentina – goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea and defender Oscar Ruggeri.

Basile, announcing the forthcoming selection of a provisional list of 25 players to start work on the long haul towards World Cup'94, said: "Maradona is going through a difficult period and has said he is tired of everything. The man needs to rest and think things over."

Diego wants to spend more time with his family ... in Argentina.

WORLD SOCCER

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THE KA

FRANZ BECKENBAUER shocked the football world when he took up his first coaching appointment – not in his native Germany, but with French champions Marseille, under their ambitious millionaire president, Bernard Tapie. Everyone wanted to ask the same question: Why had 'The Kaiser' done it?

Interview by JONATHAN SHALLARD

WORLD SOCCER: Six months ago, could you have envisaged following the World Cup victory with an club job in France?

FRANZ BECKENBAUER: No, after winning in Italy with the West German national team I would not have believed what has happened. After our success I went home and was just taking things easy at my home in the Austrian resort of Kitzbuehl. Sometimes I did not even bother to answer the telephpne. Whenever it became too noisy, then I just went out golfing. That is the reason no-one could reach me.

WS: No-one, that is, except Bernard Tapie?

FB: Yes, he was persistent! But it was natural that he should have wanted to get in contact because he had just bought a controlling interest in the sportswear company, adidas, with whom I have been under contract for many years.

WS: Did you meet him first in Germany or France?

FB: Neither, but in Zurich. Neutral territory, so to speak.
That was where we held our first meeting and where he convinced me that I should give serious consideration to his offer of a post as technical director with Marseille.

WS: What impression did you have, on meeting him?

FB: He impressed me as a dynamic personality who knows exactly what he wants. He was very impressive.

WS: Listening to you before the World Cup, you gave the impression of a man who had no intention of ever taking up another team management job. Many people are now asking whether you were serious then, or whether you were pulling the wool over everyone's eyes?

FB: It was definite. Before I met Bernard Tapie, there was no change in my resolve. I had decided long before that I would get away from the football pitch and into marketing. After six years as a football manager I had been planning to work, perhaps, for the federation at a business level. For example, I was responsible for getting Mercedes to become major sponsors in German football and I have always been interested in that side of the game.

WS: So how did Tapie get you to think differently?

FB: The more I thought things over, the more I realised that marketing might not be the right career for me. You know, it's not easy to change track when you have been following the same line all your life! I began to think that perhaps it would be better if I concentrated on doing what I was best at – something directly connected with football.

WS: So it was Tapie who changed your mind?

FB: Simply, he persuaded me that I should take up his offer. I decided to go to Marseille and see things for myself. When I went to the Stade Velodrome for the first time, and saw them beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1, I knew it was the right decision. The enthusiasm for football there is just as overwhelming as it is in Italy – which has the best championship in the world.

WS: In passing, did you ever consider working in Italy?

FB: No. What could I do there? It is so well-organised. What could one man change for the better?

WS: Your contract with Marseille is for two seasons, initially, with a one-season option after that. Was that deliberately to clear you for work with the United States federation as they get closer to the 1994 World Cup?

FB: Now that I have joined Marseille, there is little likelihood of me taking up a position in the United States in time to work towards the next World Cup. Look at the situation: I would have to start from scratch in the United States. There is no championship yet in place. Compare the situation with Germany where I had my staff of experienced coaches and scouts who could keep a check on every player.

I would have to set up my own people from scratch in the United States. And where would they look? It is a very big country. A different job. It would be very difficult to achieve success with the United States team, even though they are playing at home.

WS: Have you cut all links with the USSF?

FB: No, I would not say that either and I would not do that.
I will be keeping in touch with them. If they need any help then I am willing to assist them in an advisory capacity. But they have a lot of good people who will organise the tournament perfectly. They know where I am if they need me.

WS: Marseille have ambitions to become the first French club to win the European Champions' Cup. When you saw them first, you gave the impression that you were not too impressed. Now that you are working with the players full-time, what is your assessment of the squad?

FB: We have three players whom I consider world-class: Brazil's Jose Mozer, England's Chris Waddle – he may not be the greatest in the world

STOJKOVIC ... his knee injury is a bad blow to Beckenbauer's future plans.

Brazil's Jose Mozer ... world class player.

ZER'S CREED

Beckenbauer tells how he keeps his teams ticking

without the ball but he's terrific when it is at his feet – and the Yugoslav Dragan Stojkovic. Sadly, he will be unavailable for the rest of the season because of a serious knee injury. He has been very unlucky.

We also possess, of course, what I consider the cream of French talent, most notably the top scorer and captain Jean-Pierre Papin. Between them they possess a lot of talent which we must exploit.

WS: How do you see your role as technical director?

FB: Do not be misled by the title and its image. You will not find Franz Beckenbauer sitting up in the VIP box with a champagne glass. I am out there on the training ground with Holger Osieck, who was my assistant with the West German national team. And it doesn't matter what the weather is like. When you have work to do, you must get on with it. Players play in all weathers, so they must train in them as well!

WS: You set a fashion for standing alongside the trainer's bench during a match. Have you changed ?

FB: No, you can still find me standing through a match. But the one area which I have had to change is language. I did not speak French. At first I could communicate with most of the players in English. But that is not enough. A manager must speak the same language as his players. So I have been learning French, enough to give me a reasonable grasp quickly.

WS: In the quarter-finals of the Champions' Cup your rivals include Milan, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. Can Marseille match them and, ultimately, beat them?

FB: We will try our hardest to do. If I can get my Marseille players to use the wings more, play consistent aggressive and attacking soccer for a full 90 minutes and concentrate harder on the goal chances we create, then with a bit of luck we can win the Cup. Milan, of course, I know well – particularly their Dutch players Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard.

I know, as well, that my old friend Uli Hoeness at Bayern Munich would relish facing us. Also, Real Madrid can never be taken lightly. We do not under-estimate anybody.

WS: Your players have some experience in European competition?

FB: Yes, but you do not win the European Cup by defeating teams such as Brondby or AEK Athens, as Marseille did last season before they went out to Benfica. You have to beat the Milan clubs, Bayern, Real, Benfica – and the English clubs, when they are back in the Champions' Cup. When I look at the quarter-finals line-up now I know I am about to find out all about my squad.

WS: What about the German national team you left behind?

FB: I still feel the pressure of the matches, though not to quite the same extent! What I have seen in their matches this season has confirmed my mind about some of the choices of players I made during the World Cup. There was a lot of pressure for me to play Andy Moller, of Frankfurt. I did not think he was quite ready and I think that view has been proved correct this season already.

WS: What does he need?

FB: Nothing drastic – merely time while he learns how he can impose himself as the playmaker. I gave that role to Lothar Matthaus, of course. I believe I was right. I think the result bears me out!

WS: Thinking back to the World Cup finals, was there anything you would change now?

FB: We won. Why should I wish to change any of that? You know, I was even pleased that we played England in the semi-finals and not Italy or Cameroon. England teams always bring out the best in German footballers. They lift their game. I had no need to motivate them.

They made my job easy, from that point of view. The game has changed, of course, since I captained West Germany to the World Cup in 1974. The team which won in Rome was less spectacular maybe, but it was a very sound, all-round team.

WS: Was the semi-final West Germany's best match at the World Cup?

FB: Our best match was the 2-1 victory over Holland in the second round in Milan. The England game? Well, there is no doubt ... that was our hardest.

The England forward is Waddle . . . terrific when he has the ball at his feet, says his new boss.

THE AMIABLE ACROBAT

BY NICK BIDWELL

Current style ... Conejo clears from McLeish during Costa Rica's 1990 World Cup victory over Scotland.

SPAIN has a rich heritage of home-produced goalkeeping talent, such as Zamora, Ramallets, Iribar, Arconada and now Zubizarreta.

But in recent times the country has developed into something of a haven for overseas keepers who showed their skill to a global audience during World Cup tournaments.

Poland's Jan Tomaszewski spent a period with Hercules of Alicante, Thomas N'Kono moved to Espanol of Barcelona in the wake of Cameroon's fine showing in the Spanish Mundial of 1982, and Morocco's Zaki signed for Mallorca after impressing in Mexico.

Argentinian World champions Ubaldo Fillol and Nery Pumpido left Buenos Aires for Atletico Madrid and Betis Seville respectively, the latter being joined in 1988 by the Soviet Union's Rinat Dassaev.

The latest in a long line of World Cup keepers to arrive in Spain is Costa Rica's Luis Gabelo Conejo.

Somewhat surprisingly, for one who played a large part in helping his country to an unexpected place in the last 16 of Italia'90, his destination was not among Spain's elite, but newly-promoted Second Division outfit Albacete Balompie.

Valladolid, Espanol and Logrones, with Swiss and French sides, all made tentative inquiries after the World Cup, says 30-year-old Conejo, but ultimately nothing came of them.

Atmosphere

"I wasn't too concerned, though, and shortly afterwards I was contacted and asked to go to Spain for negotiations with Albacete.

"In principle I did not want to go because I had no wish to play in Spain's Second Division, but then I did not know this club. Now I have no reason to regret the move. It is a solid club with serious directors and coaching staff, and there is a good working atmosphere."

Conejo was ever-present as Costa Rica topped their final World Cup qualifying pool, conceding only six goals in the eight-game series, but his position as his country's No.1 keeper was far from impregnable as Italia'90 approached.

Many observers back in San Jose preferred the claims of reserve Hermidio Barrantes.

In the semi-final of the Marlboro Cup in Chicago, Costa Rica slumped alarmingly to Mexican club side Atlas, both goals directly attributable to Conejo's apparent lack of confidence when going for crosses.

That impression was underlined when he made an undistinguished showing during the 1-0 loss to Wales in Cardiff two weeks later.

Fortunately for Conejo, when manager Bora Milutinovic called on Barrantes during World Cup preparations, he fared equally erratically. Conejo lined up against Scotland for Costa Rica's inaugural appearance, conspicuously spending several nervous pre-match moments knelt in prayer in his goalmouth.

The Scots believed they could exploit the goalkeeper's alleged vertigo and proceeded with an aerial bombardment.

Conejo, however, imperiously plucked high and hopeful crosses from the air and twice denied Mo Johnston with razor-sharp reflex stops. And just to prove his inspired performance was no fluke, more Conejo acrobatics followed against both Brazil and Sweden as Costa Rica made shock progress to the second round.

An ill-timed ankle injury prevented his participation in the ensuing 4-2 defeat by Czechoslovakia in Bari, but the contribution of the lithe and fearless Conejo to his nation's triumph had been immense, even though he says: "Costa Rican success at Italia'90 belongs to everybody."

Conejo was born in the town of San Ramon on January 1, 1960, and as with so many professional keepers his vocation was discovered accidently. He was playing centre-forward for one of the junior teams at Asociacion Deportiva Ramonense when fate decreed that the team's regular keeper did not appear.

"When the coach asked if anyone would like to play in goal, nobody was keen," he recalls. "As I was the tallest he chose me and when the usual keeper returned the following week, it was as my deputy.

"As time went on I became more and more obsessed with the position of goalkeeper."

Not surprisingly for one whose earliest soccer recollections were as the Ramonense club's mascot, whose parents were life-long supporters of the club, Conejo was bound to the San Ramon goal for 12 years. Eventually he moved to Deportiva Cartagines last year.

Despite his signature for Albacete, west of Valencia, Conejo denies that he is employed in a backwater.

"We have a hard-working and skilful team in the promotion hunt," he says. "I have signed for a season with an option for two more, and I have already declared that I want to play in the Spanish top flight. I hope it is with this club.

"If we do not go up, I hope to find a team in the Primera Division. If I can't, I'll return to Costa Rica."

He was dropped earlier this season, although he had conceded only seven goals in seven matches. But a premature return to Latin America ought not to be on the agenda for the amiable goalkeeping acrobat, Luis Conejo.

Old style ... Spanish goalkeeper Zamora (right) with Italian counterpart Combi in 1934.

Conejo makes his mark in Spain

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SPOTLIGHT ON

NETO

THE MISSING HERO

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

BRAZILIAN midfielder Neto has become a national hero ... because he did NOT play in the World Cup.

Many inquests followed the spectacular failure of Sebastiao Lazaroni and Co. in Italy, and one of the most frequent comments was that Neto should have been included.

His passing ability, vision and lethal free-kicks made him exactly the sort of player Brazil had been lacking.

Suddenly Neto became the man who could have won the World Cup ... if he had been there. The King, Pele, stirred things up in an interview on Italian television, saying: "Neto is the best number 10 in Brazil."

Shortly afterwards rumours began that Napoli were intending to buy Neto for £1.2 million and use him as the replacement for Diego Maradona from the start of 1991-1992. The move did not come off but the very fact that Neto was compared with Maradona showed how highly he was being rated in Brazil.

Whether 24-year-old Neto can live up to the expectations remains to be seen, and much will depend on his performances for Brazil over the next few months.

But there is no denying that Neto is good, particularly at set-pieces. His free-kicks – he will have a go from up to 35 yards – and his inswinging corners are a goalkeeper's nightmare.

In the first phase of the Brazilian championship, he scored five goals, four of them with free-kicks outside the area. He also has scored 11 goals direct from corners during his professional career.

The day after a particularly brilliant effort won the game for Corinthians against Sao Paulo, one leading newspaper published a full-page article on what goalkeepers could do to defend themselves against Neto's shooting. The basic conclusion was: not a lot.

When Bahia travelled to Corinthians for a championship match, manager Candino instructed his defenders to avoid – at all costs – conceding free-kicks on the edge of their penalty area.

Neto also possesses precocious dribbling skill, he can drop the ball on a coin from 50 yards away, and has excellent vision.

Common

All this has led to comparisons not only with Maradona but with Roberto Rivelino, No. 10 for Corinthians between 1964 and 1974, and with Paul Gascoigne. Neto is known for not looking after his weight and when he is not on the ball he can usually be found shouting at team-mates.

"If he does not shout something is wrong," says Corinthians defender Marcelo.

Like many great players, Neto has his controversial side. He has a reputation for getting into arguments with his manager, there are times when he seems to disappear during a game, and he is criticised for being lazy on the pitch.

Like Maradona he is prone to theatricals. After scoring a goal he is usually to be seen trying to scale the fencing that protects the players from the crowd (or vice versa in Brazil) and he has been known to remove his shirt during his celebrations, though he spares us the down-on-the-knees-and-praying act.

Neto attracted further comparisons with Don Diego during the derby with Palmeiras, when he scored the winning goal after playing most of the match with a swollen ankle.

"Maradona is my idol," he says. "I like him a lot, and we have some things in common. We can both hit long passes. I score a lot of goals from free-kicks, I can hit the ball well with my left foot, and I have good vision of the game.

"He is a lot better than me but, yes, there are some similarities.

"I'm proud to be compared with Diego and Rivelino, and that makes me want to improve still more. But it also makes life difficult, because if people compare you with Rivelino and Maradona the responsibility increases."

Neto says that after every Corinthians training session, he takes about 80 free-kicks, scoring with 60

Neto in action for Corinthians against Santos of Sao Paulo.

per cent. But he does not deny that he won't get involved in marking.

"It's not my job," he says. "If someone signs me, they know I'm not going to do it. I'm creative. If they want me to mark, they might as well not pick me."

Tactics at Corinthians revolve around Neto. The team use two hard-tackling midfielders, Wilson Mano and Marcio, to feed him the ball, and two fast wingers, Fabinho and Mauro, to chase his passes.

Lazaroni would not have been prepared to give Neto the same freedom. But, as with Gascoigne, it seemed that Neto was not being given a fair chance.

At the time the World Cup squad was announced, he claimed Lazaroni had been biased towards Rio de Janeiro. "How can he form a good team without travelling to other states where the football is better than it is in Rio?" he said.

Neto still insists he was "done an injustice in the 1990 World Cup." But he says he was not surprised or disappointed and that, even with the benefits Brazil's failure has brought him, he would have preferred them to have done well.

"I don't know if I would have made any difference. Lazaroni only really looked at the players based in Europe, so what could I do? I'll have to wait."

New manager Falcao has given Neto a chance, calling him up for the first two matches under his command. The manager will not talk about Neto's importance to the team, but against Spain it was clear that Neto was being given the freedom he relishes. We'll see what happens from now on.

If you want to make friends with Neto, don't call him fat. He has a reputation for putting on weight and at the end of last year was nearly a stone heavier than he should have been.

With the help of a disciplined diet – "it's difficult to keep to but it's something I have to do" – he has managed to get down to his ideal 10½ stones.

It has become a sensitive subject for him. After the Sao Paulo match, when the critics were naturally waxing lyrical about his free-kick, Neto appealed to them to praise him for his fitness and work-rate instead.

Despite being a calm, shy person off the field, Neto remains just as aggressive during a match. He takes football very seriously.

"On the pitch, I'm very determined. Before the game I lock myself in my room and think of what I am going to do. I study the opposition. I'm very meticulous.

"During the game I shout a lot, but my team-mates accept it. If they didn't we would fight all the time. I demand a lot of myself."

Neto, born in Santo Antonio da Posse, began his career with Guarani at the age of 11.

"I dedicated myself to football. I regret not having studied because I could have gone to university. I wanted to play football and I gambled everything. But I do not know what I will do when I stop playing."

One of the countless free-kicks Neto tries in training.

He made his debut for Guarani at 16, against Juventus, and celebrated by scoring with a header. He went through an excellent phase for Guarani but after four years he went on loan to the Rio club Bangu in 1986.

"I was having problems renewing my contract so a loan was the best idea, but I hardly played, through injury."

Next stop was Sao Paulo, but with Pita, Careca, Muller and Silas in the team, Neto spent most of his time on the bench.

He returned to Guarani in 1988, spent five games in the reserves, was recalled to the side and then never looked back.

"In my first game back I scored two goals from free-kicks and I stayed in the team."

Rivelino, seen playing against Italy in the 1970 World Cup final, was a Corinthians star for a decade.

He helped Guarani reach the final of the Sao Paulo championship, and in the first leg of the final – against Corinthians – scored with a bicycle kick. He regards the goal as the best of his career.

But Guarani still lost and at the start of the 1989 Neto left for good, being sold to Palmeiras. There he went through one of the most frustrating episodes of his career.

The manager was Brazil's ex-World Cup goalkeeper, Emerson Leao, now in charge of another Sao Paulo club, Portuguesa. He and Neto just did not see eye to eye.

When Palmeiras failed to win anything – as they have for the last 14 years – Leao and Neto went their separate ways.

Neto moved to Corinthians, where he has become the biggest idol since Socrates left in 1984. "I'm going through my best phase. I don't know how it worked out – maybe I'm more professional. I've got more freedom, the players understand me as I understand them. And the supporters are incredible."

Naturally, he would like to go abroad. The Napoli episode this year was the work of an Argentinian agent, who announced the sale of the player before he had any confirmation that the Italians were interested.

The story went that Maradona would leave Napoli at the end of 1990-91 season and that Neto would then replace him, while in the meantime going on loan to another Italian club. The agent then attempted to blame Sebastiao Lazaroni, now manager of Fiorentina, for the failure of the transaction.

Falcao called Neto into the team for the first two matches under his command.

Neto says he will accept playing anywhere in Europe providing he goes to a good team.

He says: "There are a lot of reasons for going abroad: to get to know another culture, learn a foreign language, to play somewhere where football is organised – not like here where you have to play Sunday, Wednesday, Sunday, Wednesday. You don't have time to recover.

"I don't believe things will change. There's too much politics. While the same people are in power, things will stay the same."

Neto's a star because he was not in the World Cup

BLOWN UP

Paulo Pereira of Porto (right) in action against Arsenal's Alan Smith during the Makita tournament at Wembley.

Sporting? That's not always the case these days

BY TIM COLLINGS AND KEIR RADNEDGE

JUST when all was quiet from Portugal, tales of bribery and corruption among leading referees and increasing violence on and off the pitch brought a sad flavour to the taste of soccer on Europe's western shore.

More upset at these developments than anyone were officials, players and fans of Sporting Clube, who have at last thrown off the chaos and perplexity that dogged them in the 1980s and re-emerged as a power in the land.

Sporting ran through a dozen games undefeated from the start of the season but then dropped their first point to unfashionable Chaves, in a 2-2 draw, and were almost immediately toppled from the leadership in a 2-0 defeat by new leaders – and reigning champions – Porto.

The refereeing scandal surfaced in sensational fashion and centred, initially at least, on international official Francisco Silva – generally considered Portugal's third-ranked referee. He was alleged to have been caught by the Penafiel president, Manuel Rocha, discussing a bribe of around £9,000 to assist Penafiel in their relegation battle against Belenenses on November 10. A further £6,000 was due to be paid after the game.

Rocha claims he hid a tape recorder in his jacket when he met the referee two days before the game and deliberately offered cash "to trap him." Having taped their conversation, he then revealed the recorder and sent the tape to Lourenco Pinto, president of the national referees' council.

Silva denies seeking bribes and has accused of Rocha and Pinto of being in league against him.

Incidentally, a new referee for the Penafiel-Belenenses match had to be found in such a hurry that substitute Fortunato Azevedo arrived at the ground only 25 minutes before kick-off.

Penafiel, for what it may be worth, won 1-0.

Trouble poured in from another direction the next week when a total of six players were sent off and 41 cautioned in the ten first division matches. Low point of the weekend was the Gil Vicent v Setubal match in which Setubal had three players sent off.

There was a similarly disappointing story off the pitch with missile-hurling Farense fans knocking over referee Sepa Santos during their game against Porto. After Paulo Pereira hit a last-minute winner for Porto more fans began fighting, with others attempting to tear down stadium fencing.

As for punch on the pitch, that has been provided by Sporting's veteran Fernando Gomes and Benfica's prodigal Rui Aguas. With 12 goals apiece they are neck and neck in the scoring race.

The best match so far was the 2-2 draw between Benfica and Porto in the Stadio da Luz. Benfica led through an 11th-minute header from Ricardo and later thanks to Aguas. Each time, Porto fought back for equalisers from Domingos Oliveira and Emil Kostadinov.

It will be interesting to see where Porto coach Artur Jorge can find a space to play his new Brazilian signing from Atletico Madrid, Baltazar.

Promising

As if that were not enough, Artur Jorge also handles the managerial affairs of the national team – who made a promising beginning to their European championship campaign when they beat Holland 1-0.

But Portugal's prospects of a return to the glory days of the 1960s rest on a resolution of the problem caused by the huge number of foreign players admitted to the league – largely second-rate Brazilians who come cheap and, by virtue of political law, qualify as Portuguese citizens and thus do not count as foreigners.

UEFA's move towards import-restrictions in European competition mean that the big clubs will have to more sophisticated in their recruitment of players. But the smaller clubs will take little notice and continue to stifle their own youth development by continued imports of "ready-made" players.

Portugal last appeared on the world scene at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, when a player revolt over pay and bonuses led to first-round elimination and then a long-drawn-out wrangle between the players of the Big Three and the federation.

This, eventually, was resolved. What a pity that the rebuilding of the national team is suffering in the shadows of more bad headlines.

Artur Jorge combines his club job as the Porto coach with running the Portuguese national squad as well.

PORTUGUESE SQUAD

THE COACH

ARTUR JORGE de Melo Teixeira. Aged 44 (born February 13, 1946). Combines the national team post with his second spell as boss of FC Porto. Artur Jorge was first appointed in the summer of 1984 in succession to Jose Maria Pedroto, the former national team boss who had been forced to quit because of incurable illness. Artur Jorge, a former Portuguese international centre forward, had begun his playing career with Porto and later went on to Academica Coimbra, Benfica and Belenenses before winding things up in the United States.

He studied at the renowned West German federation coaching school in Cologne then returned home as national team aide to Mario Wilson. He worked successfully with unfashionable clubs such as Vitoria Guimaraes, Belenenses and Portimonense before returning to Porto. Fluent in four languages, he guided Porto to the 1987 Champions' Cup and then quit surprisingly, for Racing Club of Paris.

Two years ago Jorge quit for family reasons and returned to Portugal where he was re-engaged in mid-season by Porto in succession to Quinito.

At the start of last season he was appointed as national manager with Toni (Antonio Jose Carlos Oliveira), the long-serving Benfica assistant, as his No 2.

THE PLAYERS

SILVINO De Almeida Louro. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born March 5, 1959) with 17 caps. Benfica. Signed in 1984 from Vitoria Guimaraes as prospective replacement for Bento – a status he achieved only after Bento broke a leg in training at the 1986 World Cup finals. Silvino, who began with Vitoria Setubal, made his international debut in a goalless draw against Hungary in April, 1983.

Peculiarly all his first international games, for youth team, under-21 and full national team, ended in draws.

VITOR Manuel Martins BAIA. Goalkeeper. Aged 19 (born October 15, 1969) with no caps as yet. Highly-rated former youth international. Made a big impression in the 1988-89 league season when Poerto had to throw him in at the deep end because of injury to the Polish international Mlynarczyk and the suspension of Portugal international Ze Beto.

JOAO Domingos da Silva PINTO. Right back. Aged 29 (born November 21, 1961) with 37 caps. His proudest moment was in 1987 when he was stand-in captain of Champions' Cup-winners Porto against Bayern Munich – leading the team to victory in Vienna because of injury to veteran striker Fernando Gomes.

Joao Pinto was Portugal's World Cup rightback in Mexico though his appearance there was at one time in doubt after a leg injury early that spring. He returned to league action, however, at the end of March in time to prove his fitness to then national manager Jose Torres. Porto signed Joao Pinto from junior club Oliveira do Douro in 1976 at the age of 14. His potential allowed them to sell rightback Gabriel at the end of the 1982-83 season and Joao Pinto succeeded him with both club and country.

Made his Portugal debut in a 3-0 defeat by France in 1983 but was Portugal's regular right back at the 1984 European championship and a member of the Porto team which finished Cup-winners' runners-up to Juventus that same year. Wears spectacles off the pitch.

Joao Antonio Silva Duarte GALO. Right back. Aged 29 (born October 23, 1961) with one cap. Belenenses. Now in his fourth season with Belenenses though, if he makes a success of his international arrival now, he will almost certainly be snapped up at the season's end by Benfica, Porto or Sporting. Made his Portugal debut against West Germany.

JOSE CARLOS Martins Ferreira. Fullback. Aged 24 (born August 2, 1966) with one cap. Benfica. Also a youth and under-21 international. Signed two years ago from Portimonense. Made his international debut in this 1-1 draw against West Germany.

Antonio Manuel Tavares FONSECA. Centre back. Aged 25 (born January 30, 1965) with four caps. Vitoria Guimaraes. Made his debut three years ago in a 6-0 win over Angola. Previously with Benfica.

Pedro Manuel Regateiro VENANCIO. Centre back/stopper. Aged 27 (born November 21, 1963) with 14 caps. Sporting. Steadiest central defender in the league. Joined Sporting three years ago from Vitoria Setubal. Venancio also played for Portugal at youth and under-21 levels.

Antonio Augusto Da Silva VELOSO. Sweeper/formerly left back. Aged 33 (born January 31, 1957) with 28 caps. Benfica. Joined Benfica in 1980 from Beira-Mar. A knee injury in the middle of season 1983-84 upset his chances of appearing (apart from one game as a substitute) in the 1984 European finals. Until that injury he had been unanimously regarded as the top player in the league that season. Made his international debut in a 2-1 win over Scotland in Lisbon, in November 1981.

Jose Martins LEAL. Left back. Aged 25 (born March 23, 1965) with one cap. Sporting Lisbon. An Olympic international who made his international debut in the recent 1-0 win over Holland – owing his promotion to Sporting's excellent start to the season. Leal was born in Angola and joined Sporting three years ago from Academica Viseu.

OCEANO Andrade da Cruz. Defensive midfield. Aged 28 (born July 29, 1962) with five caps. A stalwart in the Sporting defence over the past seven years, since joining them from Nacional of Madeira. He is also an Olympic international.

CARLOS Jorge Marques Caldos XAVIER. Midfield/right back. Aged 24 (born January 26, 1966) with seven caps. Sporting Lisbon.

Born in Lourenco Marques, Mozambique (home of Eusebio) and joined Sporting four years ago from Academica Coimbra.

HERNANI Madruga Neves. Midfield. Aged 27 (born November 2, 1963) with two caps. Benfica – whom he joined four years ago from Vitoria Setubal.

VITOR PANEIRA. Full name: Vitor Manuel da Costa Araujo. Midfield. Aged 24 (born February 16, 1966) with 16 caps. Benfica. Also an under-21 international. Made his senior national team debut as a substitute for Porto's Jaime Magalhaes in a 0-0 draw against Sweden in Gothenburg in October, 1988.

Antonio dos Santos Fernandes ANDRE. Midfield. Aged 33 (born December 24, 1957) with 16 caps. FC Porto. Appointed Porto captain in the middle of the 1988-89 season. Played for Rio Ave and Varzim before joining Porto seven years ago as replacement for fellow Portugal midfielder Sousa, who had left for Sporting.

Jose Orlando Vinha Rocha SEMEDO. Midfield. Aged 25 (born March 5, 1965) with six caps. FC Porto. One of Porto's own products, having been discovered playing for junior club Feirense when he was 16.

Antonio Manuel PACHECO Domingos. Midfield. Aged 24 (born December 1, 1966) with five caps. Benfica. Also an under-21 international. Pacheco was the domestic revelation of the 1987-88 season – just in time too, since Benfica had just sold their best midfielder, veteran Carlos Manuel, to Sion of Switzerland.

Jose RUI Lopes AGUAS. Striker. Aged 30 (born April 28, 1960) with 16 caps. Benfica. Now back with Benfica after two years with FC Porto – his original move away in the summer of 1988 having been a major shock since his goals had only just taken Benfica to the Champions' Cup Final.

Rui Aguas is the son of the Angolan-born Jose Aguas, centre-forward of Benfica's Champions' Cup-winning teams of 1961 and 1962. Rui Aguas was born in Lisbon, began with Benfica but was allowed to leave after finding his father's reputation more of a hindrance than a help. His fine form with Portimonense earned him a Portugal debut and Benfica re-signed him first in 1985 and then again last summer.

Jorge Paulo CADETE dos Santos Reis. Attack. Aged 22 (born August 27, 1968) with three caps. Sporting. Born in Porto Amelia, Mozambique but has lived most of his life in Portugal. Was discovered as a teenager by Vitoria Setubal, being sold to Sporting in summer of 1989.

Paulo Jorge dos Santos FUTRE. Winger/midfield. Aged 24 (born February 28, 1966) with 20 caps. Atletico Madrid (Spain). Portugal's top player though he has not played for his country for more than a year because of mysterious muscle strains which occur in midweek but do not affect his club appearances with Atletico Madrid.

When Futre first emerged his ability caused virtual civil war among the national managers in 1983-84 because they could not decide whether he should play for the senior or youth team. Futre joined Sporting Lisbon at 12 and made his first-team debut on a tour of Brazil, in May 1983. Four months later he made his full international debut in a 5-0 win over Finland.

Futre was then 17years 6 months 21 days, Portugal's youngest-ever player at senior level. It was a major shock when he walked out on Sporting in the summer of 1984 to join FC Porto – Porto's revenge for the way Sporting had lured away midfielders Jaime Pacheco and Sousa. In 1985 Futre almost joined Atletico Madrid but the deal fell through because hard-up Atletico could not agree payment terms.

They came back after Futre helped inspire Porto's 1987 Champions' Cup victory over Bayern Munich and it was largely through the promise of obtaining Futre that the notorious Jesus Gil won the Atletico presidential election that summer. Futre , though still only 24, has been Atletico captain for the past two years. He has a lucrative long-term contract at Atletico but it is widely reported that even he is now becoming disillusioned with Gil and would not object to a transfer.

Futre (left) wins the ball for Portugal from De Wolf of Belgium.

Silvino ... the keeper.

ndre ... the captain.

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Wednesday's boy is full of promise!

AMERICAN World Cup man John Harkes already has begun to make his mark on English soccer. But his sensational first goal for Sheffield Wednesday in a 2-1 replay victory at Derby in the Rumbelows-sponsored League Cup was wasted on manager Ron Atkinson.

He sat tight as the Baseball Ground erupted a split second after Harkes rocketed his shot beyond no less a goalkeeper than Peter Shilton from 25 yards.

Atkinson said: "I didn't need John to do something as spectacular as that to know he's a quality player. He's no one-match wonder – he's got a future in the League and, I hope, in the First Division next season. I agreed a three-year contract with him just a couple of weeks ago. That's how much faith I've got in his ability and potential."

Ironically, 23-year-old Harkes, who patrolled midfield for America's World Cup team in Italy, has squeezed into Atkinson's promotion-chasing side at right-back – taking advantage of the long-term injury that has affected another World Cup man, Sweden's Roland Nilsson.

The man from New Jersey needed two spells on trial at Hillsborough to persuade Atkinson he's made of the right stuff. Atkinson says: "I couldn't make my mind up first time round. But there were a couple of things John did in a practice match at Walsall last season which stuck in my mind, so I was happy to give him another chance.

"I've been really impressed by his superb attitude. He combines an American's will to achieve with a quiet nature. He's not the noisy type. He's eager to listen and learn so he advances his football education."

Harkes's single-minded approach has been unquestioned since the October day he turned down an international appearance in Poland to play for Wednesday's reserves in a Central League match at Leeds. The United States collected a 3-2 victory, but Harkes had taken a major step towards the three-year contract which cost Wednesday a £75,000 signing fee to the USSF.

He still has plenty to learn. Atkinson says: "People were surprised and impressed by his performance at Derby. But I was more impressed by what happened at Bristol City in our previous game. For the first half he was being given the run-around by their winger. I had to have a word at half-time, he was having a nightmare out there. But he sat and took it all in – then went out in the second half and did the business. He learns that quickly."

Competitive

Harkes, whose father is Scottish, said: "Settling here and playing in the League is the best thing that could have happened to me. It's the best possible preparation for the 1994 World Cup finals in the States. It's a really competitive atmosphere.

"Several of my buddies are playing in Europe, and there are a few back home who are good enough to come over here and develop their talent further. I enjoyed the World Cup but that goal against Derby – and against Shilton of all people – has to be one of my most memorable moments."

Atkinson does not, however, see Harkes settling at full-back. He says: "John's best position will be right side of midfield, where he can use his creativity and score a few goals as well."

● Everton have had to delay plans to take Poland midfielder Robert Warzycha on trial. Manager Howard Kendall wanted Warzycha at Goodison just before Christmas. But he was then summoned to play for Poland in a friendly against Greece.

PETER FERGUSON

John Harkes

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Italians go for pro officials

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE days of the middle-aged amateur referee trying to keep up with virile professional footballers in top-class matches may soon be over.

According to Sepp Blatter, general secretary of FIFA, fully professional referees will officiate at the next World Cup finals, in 1994, in the US, for the first time.

And they will be much younger than their predecessors, for FIFA are going to lower the age limit for international officials from 45 to 40. These referees will be drawn from those countries which are ready to follow the new directives and produce trained referees – and linesmen.

FIFA will shortly send a circular to all affiliated FAs asking them unconditionally to start training specialist linesmen.

Already the Italian Football Federation, under pressure from FIFA, have announced that as from season 1993-94, a panel of 40 professional referees will be operating in the First and Second divisions of the national league. They will be paid the equivalent of £48,000 a year, and those with international qualifications could earn up to £100,000.

These moves are a direct result of the numerous complaints FIFA have received about the disappointing stands of refereeing during Italia'90.

Blatter puts a lot of the criticism down to the fact that many World Cup referees have never played the game, and says: "The preparation of referees is quite inadequate. Teams have coaches, a doctor, a physiotherapist and manager as motivators.

"But who looks after the referees? They and their linesmen sit in the dressing room and there is nobody to help and instruct them, nobody to warn them about players who are often diving to get penalties, about the known hatchet men, about those who deliberately play offside, and who is notorious for dissent.

"If I were told to control, say, Bayern Munich v Sofia, I must know how the two teams are playing. But in this respect nothing much is being done.

"Who has educated the referees? The old referees. Who checks on the referees? Old referees."

Blatter confirms that FIFA's Executive Committee will debate the question of professional referees, then a total reorganisation of the Referees Commission will be undertaken and new regulations passed at a meeting in February.

Control

Blatter also reiterated that "those referees over 45 caused the biggest problems during Italia'90. They were no longer able to interpret the rules correctly for they were at a mental and physical disadvantage."

"An amateur referee can control one match, but is often not fit enough to cope with the stress over five-week world finals.

"Some of them have jobs and are refereeing at weekends. On Monday they work, on Tuesday they may have to fly out to control international games, on Wednesday they officiate, on Thursday they are again on the road and on Friday back at work.

"They never have the time to prepare thoroughly to control matches. But the next World Cup will see many 30-year-old officials.

"During the tournament in Italy many refs apparently complained of lack of supervision and care. There were cliques who stuck together, there was jealousy and little co-operation."

As for financing the training and engagement of professional referees, Blatter explains: "Every FA providing match officials will have to collect from the national league five per cent of the takings.

"This should be enough to organise courses for professional referees and to pay them."

There is, however, some resistance to these plans, notably in Italy. World Cup referee Luigi Agnolin, 47, says: "I'm glad I shan't be officiating in 1993. I am in principle against professional status. Who is going to protest us from the sponsors, the managers and agents, or manipulators?"

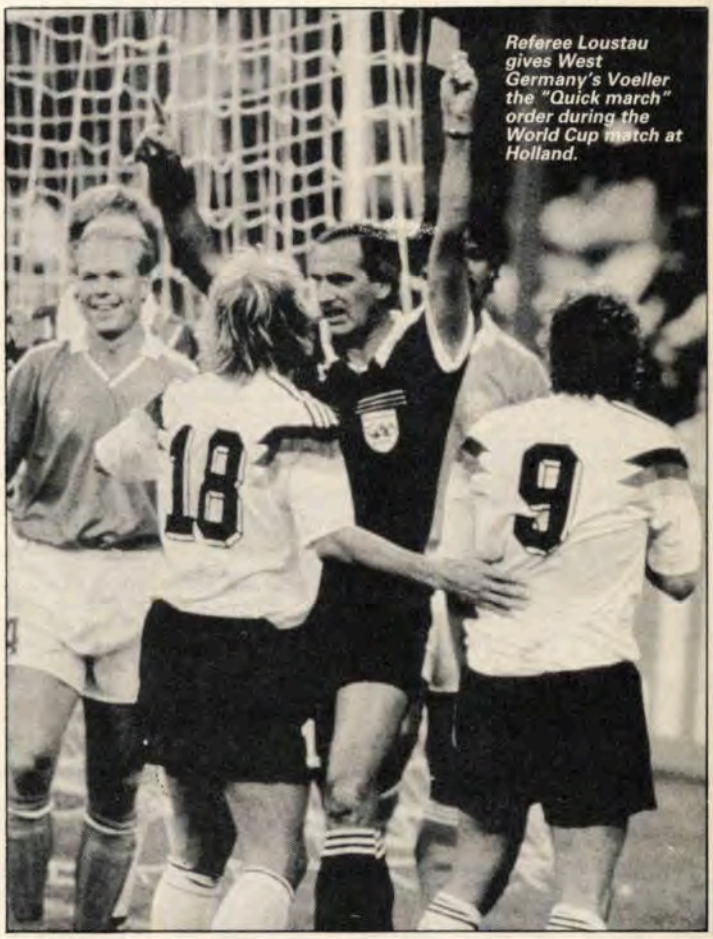
On the other hand, club presidents and team managers are apparently in favour. They see the move as a positive step towards improving declining standards. But according to some experts it may not be easy to find 40 first-class officials who will give up their present occupations.

This could be a major problem: what are referees going to do when they can no longer control matches and have no other job to fall back on?

Blatter thinks that places could be found in football administration for the most experienced of the professional officials.

He is not convinced that inept refereeing is responsible for the current wave of sendings-off in many countries. This followed the guidelines advising the punishment of the so-called "professional foul" by a red card.

In some countries dismissals have reached record proportions, although the game is certainly not dirtier.



Referee Loustau gives West Germany's Voeller the "Quick march" order during the World Cup match at Holland.

That way, that's my way ... referee Spirin won't listen as United Arab Emirates protest.

PLAYER PORTRAIT

THOMAS BERTHOLD

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

THOMAS BERTHOLD, one of the finest attacking defenders German football has produced, looks back on the greatest year of his career. "Winning the World Cup was like a fairy tale," says Berthold.

And he was born in Hanau, birthplace of the brothers Grimm!

Fittingly enough, Berthold's ultimate triumph was achieved in Rome's Olympic stadium, where he has been playing for the past 18 months for AS Roma, with German colleague Rudi Voller.

GRIMM STORY

Life is a fairy tale for Berthold

They are two of eight German stars earning their living in Italy.

Berthold's main assets are his pace, technique, heading ability (he stands 6ft), and experience gained in 45 internationals, including two World Cup finals.

What also makes this year so special for Berthold is the fact that a month before the World Cup he married girl-friend Heike, a qualified travel buyer.

Thomas Berthold was born on November 12, 1964, in Hanau, near Frankfurt. From his early formative years he was greatly influenced by his father Gunter, a deputy manager at one of Germany's biggest banks, who still advises him and handles his finances.

But sport always has played an important role in the family life. Dad was an excellent ski-jumper, footballer and swimmer. Mother, who hails from Giessen, played handball and was an enthusiastic gymnast. Younger sister Christine is an outstanding hockey player who won the German championship with Hanau.

Thomas and Heike lived for years almost next door to each other in the village of Wachenbuchen, but met relatively late, in 1981.

Otherwise, Thomas was an early starter. At five he was at school (the normal entry age in Germany is seven); at 17 he became a professional footballer, at 18 a regular with Eintracht Frankfurt, at 20 a full international.

His first footballing steps were taken as a ten-year-old in the Wachenbuchen juniors. Between 1976-78 he played for neighbours SG Hochstadt-Wachenbuchen, before being snapped up by Eintracht Frankfurt. There he won the West German national B-youth championship in 1980 and the A title in 1982.

Berthold celebrated his Bundesliga debut on March 12, 1983 and played in 111 games (scoring 17 goals) for Eintracht. His international "discoverer" was none other than Franz Beckenbauer.

In Hamburg, where he had first played a league match, he was given his international baptism – in January 1985 against Hungary.

In the autumn of the same year his career was interrupted for four months because of a fractured bone in his right hand, but he overcame the problem, and returned to the national squad.

He was still only 21 and for some time the media had a field day whenever Berthold was discussed. The verdict? "A mixture of John Travolta and James Dean, an often angry young man, a friendly type, but also a lone wolf, sometimes a big mouth."

Small setbacks didn't knock him down, like the fact that he had to repeat school exams before graduating, and had to take his driving test twice. And he has no illusions about his modest academic achievements, though he has retained his links with school chums, especially those who have nothing to do with football.

He has self-confidence, a well-balanced personality, and is not easily ruffled.

That is why, at the age of 22, he had no hesitation moving to Italy to play for unfashionable Hellas Verona. Two years later, in 1989, came an offer from Roma he couldn't refuse.

In the national team he won a World Cup final medal in Mexico 1986, was a member of the European Championship squad 1988, playing in one match, and in Italy earlier this year he took part in all seven of West Germany's ties.

He says he adores his wife, believes in and trusts her implicitly. As his biggest sporting disappointment, he bemoans Verona's elimination from the UEFA Cup quarter-final in 1988.

As hobbies he lists tennis and skiing. As ambition, learning foreign languages.

And if banished on a desert island, he would take his wife, his dog and his best friends...

No goal ... even though one looks certain as Berthold passes Higuita of Colombia.

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

WHAT'S NEW

On the bench ... Bull, Stevens, Gascoigne, Seaman and Shilton.

PERHAPS the only really surprising thing about Paul Gascoigne's omission from the England team in Dublin was that it should happen so early in the new regime. What, after all, is surprising about a highly talented English individualist being dropped or ignored by England?

Open your record books, and you will find that such major figures as Charlie Buchan and Len Shackleton were capped only a handful of times. Stanley Matthews was omitted time and again over his long, coruscating career. Glenn Hoddle was snubbed by Ron Greenwood, spurned by Bobby Robson. And now Gascoigne, whom Robson so reluctantly put in his sides, only to leap joyously on to the band waggon when he excelled in the Italian World Cup.

Which brings us back to Graham Taylor, Dublin, and the plethora of reasons given for excluding Gascoigne from a game in which Gordon Cowans, of all people, was expected to do better but couldn't. What earthly reason was there for believing that he would?

Dispute

Back to the dispiriting but significant past. Charlie Buchan, like Len Shackleton, began as an amateur inside-forward with Arsenal, though in Buchan's case it was Woolwich Arsenal, before the Great War, while Shack came from Yorkshire to play in Arsenal's Enfield nursery, just before World War II. Each left the Gunners still an amateur, Buchan over a dispute about 11 bob expenses, to go to Sunderland, Shackleton because Arsenal told "this then frail boy," as he'd later be termed by George Allison in a wartime match programme, he wasn't good enough.

Those who have read Shackleton's autobiography, Clown Prince Of Soccer, recall it chiefly for the notorious chapter headed The Average Director's Knowledge Of Soccer, which consists of a blank page. But I also recall the tale of how the squat, rumbling Allison, always essentially a journalist, but Arsenal's manager since the death of Herbert Chapman, called Shack into his office at Highbury to give him his come-uppance.

Having told the dejected boy there was no place for him at Highbury, Allison then endeavoured to console him by taking him into a corner of the office and showing him what was then a rare novelty, his television set. Far from placating Shackleton, it infuriated him; it seemed to him a case of the country bumpkin being patronised. Over the years, Arsenal had good cause to regret letting this superbly gifted, idiosyncratic, player go.

He returned to his native county to play for Bradford Park Avenue, now, also, no longer in the League. Newcastle United signed him for what was then a huge fee and got an even larger one when they surprisingly sold him to their dearest foes, Sunderland.

Shack, with his immaculate control, his curious, splayed arms as he ran, his delicious passing, his abundance of ideas, could be a joy to watch. Woe betide the player he didn't like; such as the big Welsh forward, Trevor Ford. When Ford arrived at Sunderland, Shackleton, it was said, would give him diabolic passes, struck with a bias which made them spin away from the centre forward's feet.

Buchan, who admittedly lost four years of his career in the Great War trenches, but played on as Arsenal's captain from 1925 to 1928, won but six England caps. He was supposedly too clever for his colleagues, though, inventing the Third Back game at Highbury, he was as great an inspiration to Arsenal as he had been in Sunderland's great Team of all the Talents.

Shack, who spent the second world war down the mines as a Bevin Boy, figured in England's so called Victory International game against Scotland at Hampden in 1946 when the Scots, after years of wartime humiliation, beat England 1-0 with a goal by Jimmy Delaney. That match carried no caps. In the end, under the benign if somewhat academic regime of Walter Winterbottom, England's first ever full time team manager, Shackleton was capped only five times.

But on one of those rare occasions, called up to play against the World Cup holders (what's new?) West Germany at Wembley in 1954, Shackleton put on a marvellous show, crowned with a superb, impertinent individual goal. England won comfortably that day, with a splendidly uncharacteristic team, full of fine ball players.

The story goes that once, in training at Roehampton on the spacious acres of the Bank of England, Winterbottom told his players, "Now I want you five forwards just to run down the field, interpassing the ball, and when you reach the goal, put the ball in the net."

Shackleton looked up wearily from the ground. "Which side of the net, Mr. Winterbottom?"

Stanley Matthews, first capped at 19 in 1934, played on gloriously till he was over 50, and destroyed one of the best left-backs in the world, Nilton Santos of Brazil, at the age of 41, one bright afternoon at Wembley. His talent was matchless, his swerve incredible, his centres superb, but he was another unorthodox, unpredictable player, and the selectors who picked the teams in those days never really liked or trusted him. When they could drop him, they did.

Cowans ... why believe that he could do any better?

Dazzling

A perfect chance came just after the war when Tom Finney came back from Army service in Italy. Everyone knew he was the most dazzling young player of his generation, a wonderfully gifted right winger with pace, swerve, two good feet, and a more direct approach to the game than Matthews. Why, even in the war there had been a small scandal when, in a Wembley international, it was said that Stan had been deliberately starved of the ball. So in came Finney, out went Matthews.

Suddenly, in May, 1947, the light dawned on the selectors, Stan and Tom could BOTH play. So they did against Portugal in Lisbon, Matthews on the right, Finney, a natural left footer, on the left. Portugal 0, England 10. A year later in Turin, it happened again. Italy 0 England 4, with the last two goals going to Finney.

Two more years, and the selectors struck again; they didn't even name Matthews for the 1950 World Cup finals in Brazil. Instead he was sent on a minor F.A. tour of North

GASCOIGNE?

NOW YOU KNOW THAT SOLO SKILL IS SUSPECT

America, during which the USA World Cup team was beaten. The team which would soon beat England, without Matthews but with Finney, in Belo Horizonte. Belatedly, the selectors repented, Matthews was called up, but the only game he got was the last one, against Spain. England lost that one, too, and failed to qualify for the later stages.

Glenn Hoddle played his first international at Wembley against Bulgaria, had a glorious game, and consummated it with a spectacular goal, struck from afar with the outside of his right foot. He was promptly dropped by Ron Greenwood, the apostle of all that was skilled and good at West Ham, with the immortal words, "Disappointment is part of football."

Thereafter, Hoddle, for all his immensely impressive technique, his fine right foot, his passing ability, was in and out of England teams. The functionalism which, under Alf Ramsey, had won the 1966 World Cup without Jimmy Greaves continued to prevail.

Bobby Robson was still less responsive to Hoddle. After long absence, he at last returned to the team, in May 1985, but, absurdly, was used in a deep right wing position. Hoddle, whose through passes could split any defence! The same old chant was heard; he didn't defend. A criticism which would later be ridiculed by the likes of Michel Platini and Sandro Mazzola.

There was almost a tacit conspiracy on the short tour in Mexico that summer, whereby the England players covered the right flank so that Hoddle could move into the middle. Predictably, Bobby Robson regularly damned him with faint praise after each game, only to eulogise him in almost embarrassing terms the following year, just before the 86 World Cup.

Never had he thought, said Robson, that there would be an English player to match Johnny Haynes, whom he had so much admired when they played together for Fulham and England. But Hoddle was that man. It was interesting, I wrote at the time, to see that the Road to Damascus passed through Colorado Springs; where England were in training.

Doubt

And so, Gascoigne. Every World Cup team needs a player like that, said Robson, in Italy, last summer. This, after Gascoigne had been so churlishly omitted, so sourly criticised, so many times.

When England played Italy last season, Gascoigne was in the B match at Hove, virtually obliged – shades of Hoddle – to play on the left wing. When England met Yugoslavia, it was B team time again, at Millwall. Gascoigne played well, scored a magnificent solo goal, and was impugned by Robson for a couple of careless passes.

So to the acid test, the friendly at Wembly against the Czechs. Gascoigne was picked, but oh, under such sufferance! Before the game, Robson virtually put him on trial with his public pronouncement. He had to do this, he had to do that. It was his last chance, plainly. And how he took it! Shrugging off the potential pressure, Gazza ripped the Czechs to shreds, helped to make three goals, and brilliantly scored the fourth himself. The band waggon was rolling; all the way to Italy.

Then came Graham Taylor, once known as the long-ball man in his Watford and England youth days. Days when certain clubs didn't like sending their footballers to play for young England. Had the leopard changed his spots? Would talent have its fling? There seemed no doubt about Gascoigne, who had emerged from the World Cup, tears and all, as a national hero.

But then came Dublin, out went Gazza; to stay on the bench. Disappointment was indeed part of football. Faced by the Press at Lancaster Gate the morning after that dreary 1-1 draw, Taylor had no real answers to a string of questions. He had not per se preferred Cowans to Gascoigne, he had simply chosen the team he thought best on the day, in such difficult conditions; the wind, the bumpy pitch, the Irish long balls. Gascoigne, the implication was, would not have got into the game.

McMahon certainly did. He produced several outstanding passes, one of which should have given Gary Lineker an early goal, another of which helped in the build-up for the fine goal scored by Platt. But with his sporadic moments of brilliance, with his swerving, explosive free-kicks – far beyond any other member of the English team – the case for Gazza seemed unanswerable. Futile for Taylor to say that he was just as concerned to tell Paul Parker why he wasn't in the team. Gascoigne is a star, Parker is a solid supporting player.

Finney ... a wonderfully gifted player on either wing.

In dropping Gascoigne, Taylor willy nilly was making a statement, and one most depressing to hear. At Aston Villa last season, he suddenly took off and bought Tony Cascarino, the ideal centre-forward for a long-ball team, but a player whose arrival threw the whole Villa strategy out of true. How ironic that it should be Cascarino, with a typical headed goal from a long ball, who should rob England of a win in Dublin.

Four days later, Taylor's sidekick, Lawrie McMenemy, was summarising on the ITV Big Match between Everton and Spurs. Gazza, given plenty of room (the kind of room he never got from Liverpool at Tottenham) had a dazzling game. But whom did Lawrie pick as man of the match? Why, Everton's McCall. You can make what you like out of that. I know what some shrewd people made of it.

Hoddle and Robson ... the one damned with faint praise by the other.

Distorting distraction

AS one who was present at the Old Trafford brawl between players of Manchester United and Arsenal, I agree that Something Had to be Done. I don't agree with what the F.A. did, don't agree with the docking of points, do agree with those of my colleagues who believed that the whole thing anyway was too arbitrary and random; that without the presence of television, such measures would never have been conceivable.

The referee, after all, saw very little of what happened in the brawl, sent off nobody and took only a couple of names.

Deducting points for disciplinary reasons simply distorts the League. Even the Italians have revised the law whereby when a player is struck and hurt by missile, the game goes automatically 2-0 to his team.

The absurd thing is that though several Arsenal and United players were fined, by and large the true culprits have got away with it. Had they been given long suspensions, their own punishment and that of their clubs would have been far more just and apposite.

LETTERS

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (NO long lists, please) can be dealt with only through this column.

BONUS POINTS FOR FIRST STAGES

SIR – Get rid of extra time and penalties in the World Cup, by using the points obtained in the first stages to decide when nations finish level later on.

I also believe there should be some rule changes to improve the game, such as eliminating offside, using a free-kick instead of a throw-in, and abolishing all indirect free-kicks inside the penalty area. All fouls in the box should be punished by penalties.

But I do not agree with making the goal wider. This would lead to a greater emphasis on defence to counter the extra width. – Jose Alvarez, 5 Castle Grove, Swords, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

THE REAL PROOF

SIR – May I offer comment on two matters of current interest?

First, the relative merits of English as compared to Euro-Continental clubs.

It is perhaps worth remembering that, even after 5 years out of Europe, English clubs still head the list of victories in the three European competitions, with 22 trophies compared to Italy's 19, Spain's 17, and Germany' 12, while Liverpool are still joint second with A.C. Milan, and Real Madrid in Champions' Cup wins (the last Madrid win being as long ago as 1966, incidentally?) and second in overall figures with six.

This suggests, that despite all the criticisms of technique etc, English clubs must be getting a great deal of things right.

I see many goals scored there which would be raved over in Italy or Spain, and, also seeing Italian, Spanish and German football regularly on satellite, on the whole it is below the standard of the Football League. It is time that you took notice of results, the only real proof of effective football.

Secondly, I suggest a note of caution about the rule changes currently being bandied about. The "Havelange" ideas for bigger goals, four quarters etc would merely be quite ruinous, benefitting only commercial interests, however, changes in the off-side and "back pass" regulations need to be looked at more seriously.

The thoughts I have seen mooted of having lines drawn either 35 yards from each goal-line, or even extending the penalty-area line, between which off-side would not apply, are superficially attractive.

However, would it not swiftly result in the attackers lining right up against the off-side limit lines, with the opposition defenders staying back to watch the, and much long passing being exchanged to try to break through? This isn't a prospect I would look forward to.

Abolition of the back pass to the goalkeeper, whether totally or within one's own penalty area, again looks very attractive but, with managers nationally enough being concerned with sound defence (and rightly so, all the best teams are built on such foundations) they will surely make appropriate defensive adjustments, with full-backs, sweepers and midfielders kept well back in defence to counteract the abolition of the back-pass.

I fear that the overlapping full-back in attack – one of the more attractive features of the modern game – would become a thing of the past, and rigid, very defensive formations would soon be the norm.

Let us think very carefully and have ample trials, before we tamper with the greatest game. – Charles Gresswell, Ness Road, Fortrose, N. Scotland.

KNOCK THEM OUT

SIR – I HAVE read an almost limitless list of suggestions of how we can improve upon the format of the World Cup.

Some say we should revert to the 1982 format. Some say we should eliminate penalty shoot-outs and have replays. Some way we should incorporate second-round qualifiers.

All don't agree to one single solution, but one thing we do agree on is that all of us are not happy with the way the World Cup is handled at the moment. Right?

The World Cup is held to herald soccer, its players and exponents and its millions of followers. It is the greatest sporting spectacle.

But the tournament is a little marred by the absence of the lesser sides. A great shame considering that there are some entertaining sides out there. The Koreans, China, look at France!

All teams, and I mean each and every country that can produce a national side, should gather together in one venue, and compete in a knock-out situation from day one. (Say 64 teams).

Each and every side gets one chance. And with this chance may either win, or go home. The only way to get to the next round is to win, and win with attacking, inventive and entertaining football. Just like our FA Cup.

Just think of it. In the world's most spectacular arena, the team who win every game they play in the World Cup, win the World Cup. A mammoth task, you say? Yes, maybe.

But it's the shot in the arm the international game needs, don't you think? – Elston Bell, Cropredy Road, West Heath, Birmingham.

IT'S PREPOSTEROUS

SIR – Barely had I reconciled the absurd news of a US-staged World Cup when, behold, coup de grace: news of the ultimate bastardisation of football in your article Luca Looks to 1994 (November).

I was outraged when I read the preposterous scheme that FIFA, bending backwards and stooping obligingly, has "proposed" in order to repackage football for American (corporate) consumption.

I shudder at this consideration: what if, despite such unwarranted obtrusions, our American friends still find the game unappealing (if not outright unpalatable), let alone majestic and beautiful?

Havelange ... twisted notions.

To Mr Havelange and his henchmen I subject these suggestions in keeping with the spirit of their twisted notions: introduce taller goalposts; eliminate the net and with it the goalkeeper; as for the ball, a sphere is hardly imaginative ...

To what extent are lovers of football worldwide prepared to succumb to this insanity, this blatant incursion into the very essence of our game? Are we going to stand by as we did when Mexico was sacrificed in Italia'90 to ensure American presence? Or when the 1994 World Cup was conveniently taken away from Brazil?

As FIFA part company with fundamental considerations for the preservation of football, its tradition, history and ultimate heritage, I appeal to the readers of World Soccer, and indeed all true fans of the sport, to add their voice to mine in expressing abhorrence and condemnation for such bold violations of our game. – Zola Sookias, 6th Street, New York, USA.

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CLUB DIRECTORY IS ON THE WAY

SIR – I MUST say how much I look forward to WORLD SOCCER every month. Thanks to your Pen Pals section I have established many contacts throughout the world, which has helped me to build my collection of football souvenirs. But could you please print the addresses of the world's top clubs? That sort of information would be invaluable to many of your readers, who like me, wish to obtain official badges and programmes. – Keith Stringer, Woking, Surrey.

*You will be pleased to know we are planning to publish these details in an exciting Free Gift coming soon. Watch WORLD SOCCER for details. Editor.

DON'T FORGET RANGERS

SIR – CONGRATULATIONS on your Club Focus features in WORLD SOCCER. But remember your readers abroad would also like to see articles about the great British clubs, like Rangers, Manchester United, and Tottenham Hotspur. – Jean-Claude LeGrand, Nancy, France.
*Rest assured WORLD SOCCER will not neglect these clubs. Editor.

KICK-OUT OFFSIDE

SIR- I UNDERSTAND, FIFA are considering a review of the offside law. Instead of modifying the offside, why not abolish the rule completely? That would result in a more open game because defenders would have to lie deeper giving midfield and forward players much more room in which to manoeuvre and create scoring chances. But full marks to FIFA for adding another African nation to the 1994 World Cup Finals. As Cameroon proved in Italia 90, African countries are much more organised these days and not just there to make up the numbers. Finally, congratulations to WORLD SOCCER on an outstanding, well-written and informative magazine. – John Spiteri, Canton, Cardiff, South Wales.

Shilton ... outstanding career.

SUPPORT FOR SHILTON

SIR – I WAS surprised to read that your English FA refused to support Peter Shilton's benefit match against Franz Beckenbauer's Italia 90 X1 at Tottenham in December, because they "did not want to establish a precedent." Why not? Surely Shilton's outstanding career at club and international level deserved official recognition. If Shilton had been German, you can be sure we would have given him the farewell he deserves. – Kurt Graff, Cologne, Germany.

LIFT THE BAN!

SIR – AS a fan of Juventus I would welcome Liverpool back into Europe. Juv supporters will never forget the Heysel tragedy, or the suffering that was caused. But Liverpool as a club did not deserve such a long period of banishment.

It has been proved over the last few years that hooliganism is no longer an "English desease". Sadly most nations have a serious problem with teenage violence that in many cases has nothing to do with football. When the ban is finally lifted on Liverpool I hope they get drawn against Juventus.

Then the true supporters of both clubs should unite and prove to the world that football, and not hooliganism is the real winner. – Carlo Guidette, Torino, Italia.

PEN PALS

FOOTBALL FAN, 20, seeks penfriends, especially from Germany and Austria. I follow Southend United, FC Tyrol and Bayern Munich. Answers guaranteed. Please write in English to Bryan Record, 35 Abbey Road, Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex, SS5 6DJ, England.

TOTTENHAM FAN, 19, seeks English penpals. Przemystaw Zayac, Widok 89/35, 62-800, Kalisz, Poland.

LIVERPOOL supporters! Please write to me. Emeka Ononiwzi, 25 New Mkt Road, Onitsha, Anambra, Nigeria.

ENGLISH FANS of Aston Villa wanted as penfriends. Jacek Nowakowski, Widok 97/29, 62-800, Kalisz, Poland.

LEEDS UNITED supporter wants to correspond in English, Spanish or German with fans of Inter Milan, St. Pauli, Valencia, Real Oviedo, FC Twente. – Philip Savage, 2 Tubbs Road, London, NW10 4RE, England.

I HAVE found two penpals through your magazine but would like more, particularly fans of Chelsea, Everton, Holland and Germany. All letters answered. Chiu Hang Shi, 40 7/F Mancheong Bldg, Ferry Pt, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

SEEKING football fans worldwide, of any age, as long as you love football, good music, travel and writing. I am 17, female, and can write in English, German or Spanish. Sanna Aspola, Melkunmaentie 28, SF-45700 Kuusankoski, Finland.

I AM looking for penpals, male or female, British or European. I am 15 and support Celtic, Arsenal and Sunderland.
Stephen Barclay, 132 Woodhead Green, Hamilton, Scotland ML38 TW.

I SUPPORT Manchester United but will correspond with fans of any club. Glenda Norton (aged 20), 103 Rosliston Road, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE15 9RE, England.

PENPALS in Iceland wanted by 15-year-old football fan. Chris Green, 8 Crowflat View, Viewpark, Uddington, Glasgow G71 5NP, Scotland.

I AM a boy of 17 looking for penfriends anywhere in the world. Football fans, of course. Tang Kwok Fung, flat A, 6/F, 19 Catchick Street, Hong Kong.

DUNDEE UNITED fan would like to correspond with Malmo or Gothenburg fans, in English please. Raymond McCallum junior, 15 Durness Tce, Gowrie Park, Dundee DD2 4XA, Scotland.

I AM 21, fair, 6ft 1in, fond of football, music and magazines, wanting to hear from male and female penpals. Nicholas Imartiagbe, 11B Oguola Street, Off Mission Road, Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

FOOTBALL , films, music and travel – I am 22 and would like to correspond worldwide on these subjects. Julie Garbett, Flat 2, 19 Lansdowne Street, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 IFS, England.

TANZANIAN student, 14, seeks penfriends of either sex worldwide. Basketball, swimming, music. Brian Mazula, P.O. Box 143, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.

TWO Nigerians are looking for penfriends anywhere, writing in English. Oluwole Awdyale and Sanni Sunny, 20 Obun-Eko Street, 1 Dumota, Lagos, Nigeria.

I HOPE to correspond with girls 12-20. Please enclose your photo. Partson Masaki, N.H. Cop, Box 20943, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.

BELGIAN , 23, wants to correspond with fans of Portugal, Spain, England, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. Robert Luyckfasseel, Frans Timmermans 45, 1600 Leeuw-St-Pierre, Belgium.

ANY Inter Milan, AC Milan, Luton, Barcelona or Hibernian fans out there? Gareth Healy, 155 Tairfelin, Wildmill, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, S. Wales, CF31 1SW.

TWO Moroccan boys, 20, seek penpals. Mouhsinne Amouri, 25 GR 103 Pamz Kenitra, Morocco, and Azedine Aloubi, 97 GR 102 Pamz Kenitra.

MOROCCAN male student wants to correspond with soccer fans of either sex, worldwide. Benjaya Mohammed, Hai Beb Fes, 4070, Rue 177, Kenitara, Morocco.

I AM looking for penpals anywhere, aged 12-15. Stuart Robertson, 62 Dunlop Tower, Murray 9, East Kilbride, Scotland, G75 OBT.

YOU'LL Never Walk Alone? Liverpool supporter (Male 21) wants penfriends, especially from Merseyside. Maciej Kabenda, 85866 Bydgoszcz, 2 Nakowskiej 12/45, Poland

PUT PEN to paper and get scribbling. English girl, 13, wants Inter Milan penfrields. Write in English, French or German to Margaret Evans, 21 Gray Avenue, Sherburn Village, Co. Durham, DH6 IJE, England.

ITALIAN penpals wanted. Must speak and write English. I support Napoli and Atalanta. Rebecca Bowley, 22a Castle Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1OS, England.

EXCHANGES

I WILL exchange souvenirs, badges, pennants, programmes, etc. from Polish clubs. Waldemar Korolozuk, Ul.Zielonogorska 26/14, 05, Zielone Wzgorze, Poland.

SCOTTISH fan would like to exchange programmes from all over the world. Please write in English to Garry Crawford, 61 Kenmount Drive, Kennolay, Fife, Scotland, KY8 5LS.

ITALIAN fans – please write to 15-year-old English girl who supports Internazionale and can exchange information and pictures. Write in English to Lisa Barr, 45 Offchurch Road, Cubbington, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, LV32 7NG, England.

BADGE collectors should contact me for exchanges. Stosich Iwan, Table 7/St.52, 5800 Split, Yugoslavia.

GIRL, 16, would like to exchange magazines and souvenirs of Italy, Roma, Internazionale, Juventus and Sampdoria. Tracy James, The Barleycorn, Bearwood Road, Smethwick, W Midlands, B66 4ES, England.

I WANT to exchange letters, soccer magazines and souvenirs. Finbar Tony (aged 17), 21 St. John's Cross, Onitsha, Ananmbra, Nigeria.

POSTCARDS from Italia'90 wanted, exchange or buy. Bruce Wright, 197 Annan Road, Dumfries, Scotland.

I WANT to exchange posters, pennants, badges, etc. Emil Bedreag, Str. Compozitorilor, 30, Bl. O.D. 15, Sc.H.Gtaj 8 Ap.3I6 Sect 6, COD.77352, Bucharest, Romania.

SOCCER statisticians worldwide are invited to exchange. Cyril Feenick, Kilgerrin, Tuam, Co. Galway, Ireland.

TICKETS TICKETS, programmes, badges, etc., of various European countries. Florin Oprea, Colonia RAF 1-7A, Ploiesti, Romania.

I AM very interested in exchanging metal badges with collectors all over the world. Zdenek Kubasek, Prubezna 1853, 269 0I Rakovnik, Czechoslovakia.

I HAVE about 15,000 autographs to exchange, also badges and pennants. Jean-Christophe Hollants, 27 Avenue du Sagittaire, 1410 Waterloo, Belgium.

BADGES and pennants – exchanges wanted. Platon Nicu, Cas. Post 181, 3700 Oradea 1, Romania.

CELTIC supporters, 16, will exchange badges and tables, scorers, etc., particularly with fans in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Italy. Kenny Macleod, 11 Cromare, Lochs, Isle of Lewis, Scotland.

PENNANTS, badges and scarves to exchange. Write in English to K. Chatlinski, ul. Jasna 23/5, 70-783 Szczecin, Poland.

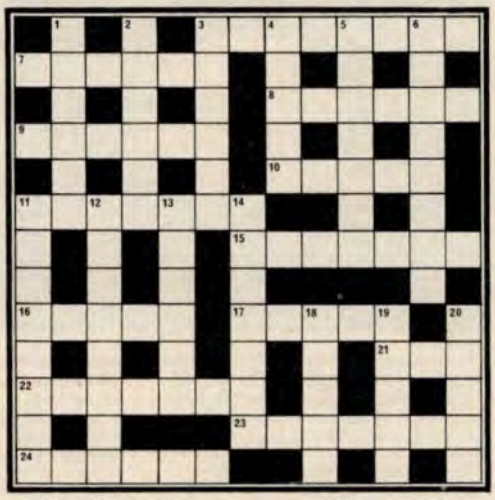
I COLLECT badges and other souvenirs, and want to contact other fans of English clubs. Artur Rendak, ul. Wolnosci 12/9, 43-197 Mikolow 5, Katowickie, Poland.

FOR SALE

BRAZILIAN videos, shirts and penants for sale. Send £1 or 2 US dollars for catalogue. Wanderli dos Santos, Rua Minas Gerais 36a, Pitangueiras Est., Sao Paulo, 14750, Brazil.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

Compiled by Barry Talbot



ACROSS
3. Spanish based Brazilian striker.
7. Sampdoria and Brazil midfield player.
8. Member of West Germany's Italia '90 winning team.
9. Jean-Luc ex French goalkeeper.
10. Spurs player who inspired phrase, nice one!
11. Former club of Olaf Thon.
15. Scorer in the 1978 World Cup Final.
16. Legendary Italian Club manager.
17. Ex Middlesbrough team manager.
21. Forename of an ex Liverpool Israeli star.
22. Home of The Saints.
23. Substitute colleague of 15 across.
24. Rest of the world goalkeeper v England at Wembley 1963.

DOWN
1. 1967 winners of the European Cup.
2. Italia '90 Group E venue.
3. Ex Juventus and Poland star.
4. First division goalkeeper.
5. Ex Roker players Jackie and Len.
6. Italian league side.
11. Former Corinthians and Fiorentina midfield star.
12. England centre forward of the sixties.
13. Ex England and Everton centre-half.
14. Current Everton midfield player.
18. Gary, highly rated Sunderland youngster.
19. Centre-forward for the 1973 FA Cup winners.
20. Club associated with 16 across.

DECEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS
Across: 1: Betis. 5: Silas. 8: Toffees. 9: Ruben. 8: Spain. 11: Donadoni. 13: Alemao. 14: Corso. 18: Progreso. 19: Wile. 20: Dienst. 21: Albert. Down: 1: Batista. 2: Taffarel. 3. Stein. 4: Tostao. 5: Serena. 6: Lobanovski. 7: Sanchis. 11: Docherty. 12: Nacional. 15: Ortiz. 16: Agana. 19: Webb. 17: Bento.

NO MORE

Laudrup row leaves Denmark in despair

BY JIM HOLDEN

BYE-BYE, Danish Dynamite. It was the end of an era, the day the old Idraetsparken died.

The bulldozers moved in before Christmas to the stadium in the centre of Copenhagen, which will be replaced by the new all-seater Baltica Parken in 1992. The Danish national side had already torn itself apart.

The last international in the ground was the European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia in November. Two goals for the visitors in the last 12 minutes realistically ended Denmark's hopes of being involved in the 1992 finals in Sweden.

That hurts enough, but the match also finished in bitter recriminations. Michael Laudrup, his younger brother Brian, and Jan Bartram all announced they would not play for the national side again. There were calls for the sacking of manager Richard Moller Nielsen, but these were rejected.

Bartram, 28, was not a vital member of the side and his absence can be covered. But nobody pretends that Denmark can lose the extravagant skill and goalscoring genius of the Laudrup brothers and remain a potent force in world football.

Michael is still only 26, yet has 64 caps and scored 27 goals. He was the last member of the "dynamite" side of the mid-1980s. Nobody who was a witness will doubt that his finest international, and the most emotional and thrilling match ever staged in the Idraetsparken, was the 4-2 defeat of the Soviet Union in a World Cup qualifier in June 1985.

A book has been written about the event. It was the afternoon the roligans became a phenomenon, on the Hockeybanen terraces.

Continue

Laudrup scored two brilliant goals that sunny afternoon and a world star was born. Now, having joined Barcelona from Juventus at the peak of his powers, he tries to claim he is too disenchanted with international football, even too old, to continue.

Many Danish fans and commentators rightly see it is a rejection of responsibility. He should be the player on whom a fine future is built.

But most venom has been reserved for the younger Laudrup. Brian is still only 21, yet already has been the subject of two big-money moves in German football. He now plays for Bayern Munich.

His decision to quit the international side came with a caveat. He said: "I cannot play while Moller Nielsen is in charge. I respect him as a person, but I have no respect for him as a coach. If he leaves I would be happy to return."

It was not a statement to earn respect. Laudrup already has had a run-in with the DBU over his transfer to Bayer Uerdingen from Brondby and was banned from the national side until the mess was sorted out. But this rebellious move is altogether more scandalous.

The Danish press have been quick to point to the parallel of the Bernd Schuster case in Germany, and it was easy to see the highly-talented young Laudrup suffering a similar maverick's fate unless wisely counselled.

But, although not justifying the public defiance, it is possible to understand the frustrations of the players. After years of disciplined success under the superb coaching of Sepp Piontek, the change of leadership was inevitably difficult.

Moller Nielsen's reign was seriously prejudiced even before he took office. He was not first choice for the post, and was only appointed at the end of a farcical week in which German trainer Horst Wohlers accepted the job and was then not released from his contract by Bayer Uerdingen.

That is still Bartram's club, and of course the former home of the younger Laudrup. Curiouser and curiouser, if nothing else.

Right: Michael Laudrup has scored 27 goals in 64 appearances for the Danish international team. Now he has quit.

Left: Richard Moller Nielsen, whose methods have upset three of his squad and led to their decision to pack in.

DYNAMITE

Left: Brian Laudrup has been involved in two costly moves although he's only 21. Above: Jan Bartram is the third player to call a halt.

Moller Nielsen also is hampered by his links to the old regime. Following Piontek was bad enough but as an insider he does not even have the benefit of a honeymoon period, and moving up from No. 2 to No. 1 is already fraught with problems in soccer management.

His lame duck leadership is perhaps illustrated by his reaction to the Laudrup rebellion: "I have told them they will be welcome back in the international squad if they change their minds. But they will have to come and ask. I won't be chasing them.

"Brian Laudrup has said I held a team meeting before the Yugoslavia game without him, but that's not true." The coach was entitled to a little more anger.

Nevertheless, there is much public sympathy for Moller Nielsen, and his job seems safe at present. The obvious contender to take over is former national team skipper Morten Olsen, who has had such success in his first season of management at Brondby. Olsen believes it is far too early for him to think about such a step.

"At international level there are only a few matches a season and it is very difficult to keep up team spirit and tactics. You need a lot of experience for this. Of course, if it happened in the future I would be very proud."

Candidate

One of Moller Nielsen's biggest problems is that he has no natural international leader on the pitch in the way that Morten Olsen was Piontek's right-hand man out on the park.

Lars Olsen is a fine player, but lacks authority. Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel is one candidate to succeed as national team captain, but the obvious player they all respect for achievement is ... Michael Laudrup.

The talent certainly still exists for Denmark to have a fine national outfit again. Schmeichel is world-class, while Jan Heintze, Flemming Povlsen, Kent Nielsen and John Jensen are good international players. But the Laudrup brothers provide the explosive spark, and can change a match in an instant of magic.

Striker Lars Elstrup, having a fine season with Luton in England, would benefit from the absence of the younger Laudrup.

But Elstrup said: "The success of the national team is more important than individuals.

Competition

"If I get the chance to have a regular place in the side that would be my privilege. But I would rather do that by winning my place in competition with all our best players. It cannot be good for Danish football to lose both Michael and Brian. Their talent is unquestioned.

"I'm not sure what is really behind their actions and their conflict with Richard Moller Nielsen. I hope it could be sorted out for the benefit of everybody."

That is the honest view of every Danish fan. And how ironic it is that while the once-devastating national side have fallen into disarray, there is finally a Danish club side, Brondby, among the best in Europe.

The Brondby managed by Morten Olsen. The Brondby who gave Michael and Brian Laudrup their first successes in soccer.

BOOKS

THE ULTIMATE World Cup statistics book has arrived. It's not English, German, French or Italian. Surprisingly, perhaps, it is in Polish. But such is the clarity of the statistical organisation that non-Poles need not feel deterred.

The Encyclopedia Pitkarskich Mistrzostw Swiata (or Encyclopedia of the World Cup) has been advertised in the Shop Window pages of this magazine and anyone wondering about the £25 direct sale price need not worry.

Statistician Andrzej Gowarzewski is a Katowice-born sports journalist who has taken endless pains to check his facts. That includes involving an army of friends and contacts around the world even obtaining birth and death certificates to nail the necessary information.

Each World Cup finals tournament has its chapter with all team line-ups, attendances, goal times, referees and substitution times. Even the coaching staffs of the finalist nations are listed.

The second section of the book is an alphabetical, biographical index of everyone who has taken part in the finals – players, managers and referees. It all adds up to a unique work.

The present edition of the book does not, fairly obviously considering the time necessary for the depth of research, include the 1990 World Cup. But we understand that will come in a later edition – as long as the present version attains the success it deserves.

Also on the statistical side, a strong recommendation too for the Italian publication Dizionario del Calcio. This is an offshoot from the Gazzetta dello Sport, the daily sports "pink" which provides unrivalled coverage of the Italian game.

The Dizionario provides biographical details for the world's game personalities, then deals with countries and leading clubs in A-Z order. The records section is worldwide and comprehensive.
Copies can be obtained from the Rizzoli publishing house in Milan or, probably more conveniently, from Stig Forsingdal (another Shop Window regular) in Luxembourg.

Gem

One further easily-assimilated statistical gem obtainable through Stig Forsingdal is the Centenario do Futebol Portugues, a facts and figures review of the history of Portuguese football. Another one for addicts.

Similarly excellent value – as ever – from Holland is Voetbal 1990, a sort of Dutch Rothmans and published as an offshoot of the weekly magazine, Voetbal International. Squads, internationals, transfers, appearances and goals – you name it, you'll find it.

Last but by no means least on the statistical front is the European Division One Clubs volume – a desktop-publishing production of loose-leaf sheets from Hardy Grune (Hagenweg 37, 3400 Gottingen, Germany). It is, simply, a rundown on all the clubs to have competed at first division level in Europe – plus all their odd name changes which accompanied them.

Back to the World Cup theme. The World Cup by Andrew Godsell (Nimrod Press) is a 563-page historical tome about you-know-what updated to include Italia'90. Unfortunately undermining the credibility of the book is the author's boast that this is the "first-ever full history of the World Cup." Where has he been all these years?

Personality corner provides Gazza – A Biography (by Robin McGibbon; Penguin Books), Scotland's For Me (by Andy Goram and Simon Pia; Sportsprint) and, in a class way out on its own, Trautmann – the biography of the former Manchester City goalkeeper, by Alan Rowlands (Breedon Books). Now this is a book of which the author should be proud! A great human story, painstakingly researched and honestly told.

* All Played Out by Pete Davies was fully considered last month in these pages by Brian Glanville. It is mentioned here just as a warning that some of the language contained within the book may not be considered particularly edifying – so think carefully before you buy as a present for someone else!

JONATHAN SHALLARD

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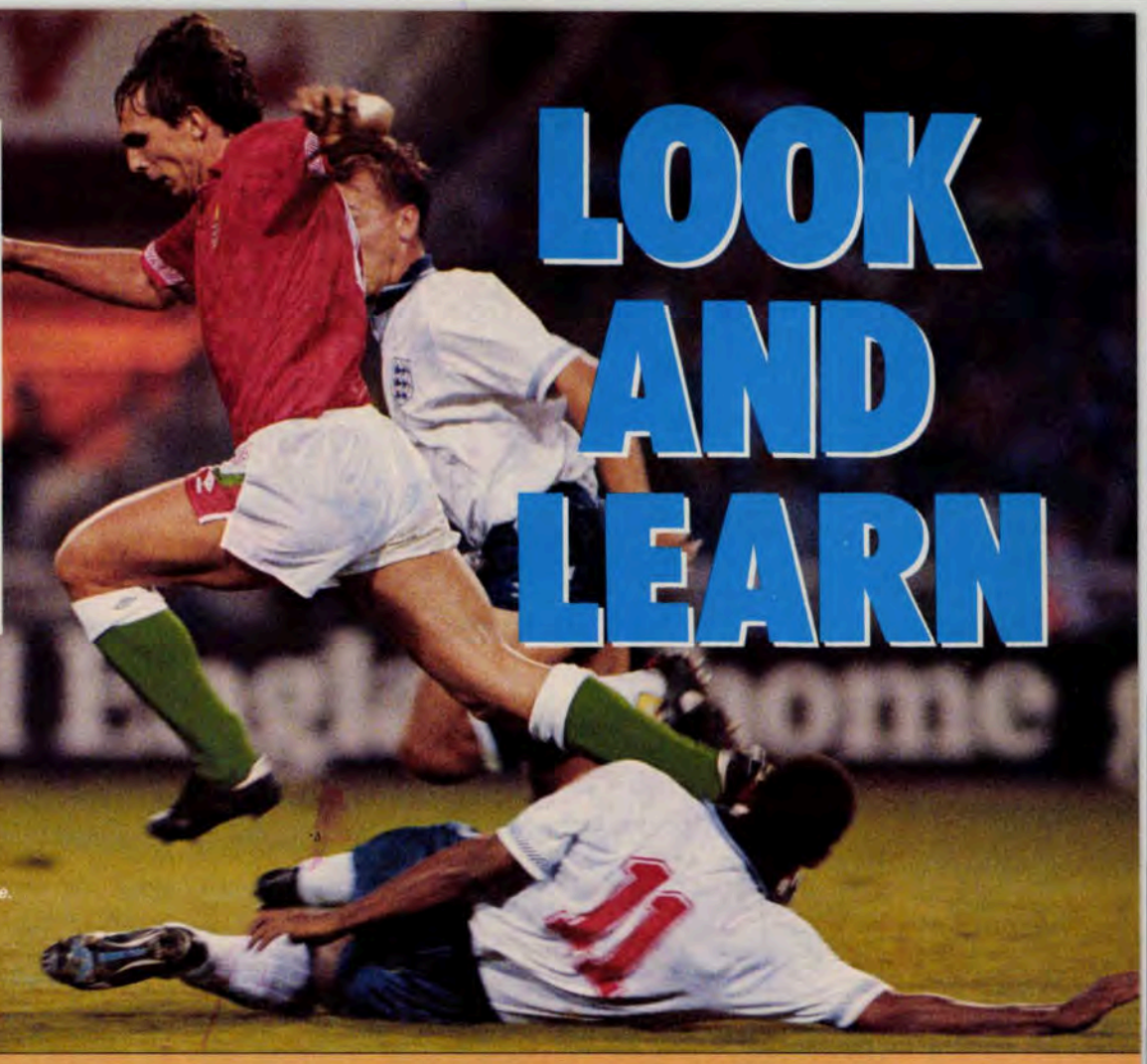


Bicskei (above) has lost his legal battle. Berczy (right) was one of his star performers.

Bicskei case is a lesson for managers

BERTALAN BICSKEI has lost his legal battle against the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) over alleged unfair dismissal from the post of manager of the national team.

The Supreme Court ruled in Budapest that the appeal by the MLSZ against a previous decision had been accepted.

Bicskei could not demand to be reinstated to his position, now held by Kalman Meszoly, because the MLSZ released him and did not now have to employ him, the court ruled.

Bicskei, in a statement after this decision, said: "MLSZ are not obliged to restore me into my position as a coach but if they don't do it, one clause in my contract is that I must be paid Ft2,000,000 in compensation for losing my job.

"How do I think about the decision itself? I have to accept the decision of the highest court. I find it satisfactory even though I emphasise that I did not fight this cause because of the money. But I still find it unfortunate that the federation was not ready, by itself, to put an end to this case satisfactorily.

"When I get the money to which I am entitled from the MLSZ I will try to find a job as a trainer, then I would like to offer a certain sum for charity."

Endangered

So ends a saga that, had those wise heads of FIFA bothered to look into, might well have brought changes for the better to that endangered specifies, those pure managers in the world whose love is for the game and not money. How to protect them, how to encourage them? If neither is done, the best friend of the opportunist – expediency – will continue to threaten the development of a certain breed of managers, coaches, trainers.

Bicskei had taken his case to the Labour Court. The first stage was conducted within the MLSZ, by a committee consisting of the MLSZ. He won it in every way, in the same way that he won it in the Budapest Labour Court.

He remained being paid the same salary by the MLSZ but only because he had won succeeding court cases (the MLSZ, as the loser of the main one, before their appeal to the decision of that hearing, paid the costs, about Ft100,000). Bicksei, as he told me in August, could not have financed that; he had to be sure that he was right.

Bicskei accepted his contract – having been asked twice previously – on the agreement that qualification for the World Cup finals in Italy was not in question but that the team should qualify for the 1992 European Championship finals.

"The chances were not good because of the scandals," he said.

"When I started there had already been two games in the qualifying group of the World Cup: a 2-2 draw in Malta and a 1-0 win over Northern Ireland. The first result proved that the team could not do much. When I made the contract the MLSZ did not include a requirement that we must reach the World Cup finals."

And the machinations that took place in the spring of last year? "There were elections for new leaders in the MLSZ. The man who was to become president started a campaign against me before the election. The election itself was not properly conducted. The federation was not able to hold it in the new, democratic manner, only in the old way. It was not held according to the rules."

The man counting the votes was Geza Baaranyi, the general secretary of the Vasas Trade Union. One of the two contenders for president was Dr Mihaly Laczko, the Vasas president. For ten minutes Baranyi went out of the room. One vote went missing. The votes were not kept. They should have been kept for a few years; since the 'election' nobody has seen them.

The voting figures were 56-52 for Laczko. By the rules, the requirement is 50 per cent of the votes plus one vote (one vote was missing, three votes were invalid). Nobody knows what these four votes represented. The MLSZ should have held another election.

"Dr Laczko sat down with me and asked me to resign. He was offering nothing worth mentioning. So I carried on working as the manager and I kept myself to the original contract, to develop a team for the European Championship finals.

Elected

"The law in Hungary is that a contract cannot be broken by one party but only by mutual agreement. I thought, with a family and three children, he wanted to send me out on to the street when I still had two and a half years of the contract left and he had not asked for the team to qualify for the World Cup finals.

"My main intention was for my family and myself. But I had another reason. I was elected the first president of the Hungarian Managers' Association. As the president of this body, I know of the same things having happened in clubs. So besides the family reasons, I fought this for other managers, too, I can see, even now, that the managers are being dealt with better than they were before."

Bicskei added: "I have a feeling that in my case FIFA have not got the correct information. I am sure that if they knew the full details of this case they would surely have an opinion about it. Hungary is a member of FIFA and the basic rules say that there cannot be two managers for one team.

"Sadly, my case also proves that, however the written law is put down in Hungary other things can happen to people. It is a changing period here but this unsettled situation can be used very skilfully by people. All the changes that have affected the rest of the country have not reached the football scene yet.

"I feel worn out from carrying on with the case but I have a lot of responsibilities as president of the Managers' Association, I do some writing for Sport-Plusz magazine. I have started to learn English. Even though I have a lot to do I miss being among the players.

"In Hungary it was not always the case that the best managers were in jobs. Connections and favours helped. I am also proud that I am an exception. I was chosen for this job because of my earlier results."

Is there a need for managers to be protected from the pressure to succeed, in order to safeguard and improve the health of our great game, and could FIFA introduce such a charter?

"Yes, definitely, and I hope that from now it will be like that, and that football life in Hungary will be like that. It would be very good, your idea of a Managers' Charter, formulated by FIFA, which prevents clubs from undertaking the easy option and giving a 'golden handshake' in dismissing a manager before his contract has expired. I hope that is what will happen, that managers will receive greater protection."

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Rijkaard of AC Milan celebrates his winning goal in the Champions' Cup final against Benfica in Vienna – their fourth victory in the tournament, and their second in succession.

THE football year is over. Some of
some of it was drab. Some heroic a
mean-spirited and depr
The game put on its annual exl
entertainment of millions ... an
photographers were there to cap
enthralling momen

SCENES FROM AN E

Naples triumphant – celebration scene after Maradona and company clinch the Italian title.

Liverpool again – skipper Alan Hansen with the championship trophy. That's the 18th time it's gone to Anfield.

World Cup shock – Oman Biyik heads the winning goal in the opening match, against holders Argentina.

Jean-Pierre Papin scored 30 goals as Marseille swept to the French championship by two points from Bordeaux.

Paul Gascoigne weeps as England go out of the World Cup ... but a few days later the West Germans were celebrating the final victory over Argentina.

vas wonderful, uplifting, some ing. tion for the Vorld Soccer e a few of the

HIBITION

Sampdoria skipper Pietro Vierchowod after the 2-0 defeat of Anderlecht in the Cup-winners' Cup final in Gothenburg.

Juventus 'keeper Tacconi saves during the UEFA Cup final against Fiorentina, who lost 3-1 in the away leg and could only draw 0-0 at home.

World Cup leader – Italy's Schillaci, top scorer in the tournament with six goals.

Rio carnival ... Botafogo (black and white) beat Vasco da Gama to take the Rio championship in troubled Brazil.

Roberto Baggio, the world's most expensive player at £8.7 million from Fiorentina to Juventus.

Paraguayan parade ... Olimpia players after their victory over Barcelona of Ecuador in the Libertadores Cup. Olimpia won 2-0 at home and drew the second leg 1-1.

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Scandal goes deeper and still deeper

Fraud squad close in on top clubs

FOR ANYONE who thought that the slush-fund troubles at Saint Etienne were a major scandal in French football, the latest, ever-developing scandals must seem like a cataclysm.

Claude Bez's son marched manacled into court; Courbis of Toulon in gaol; Bez in gravest danger of conviction over malfeasance at Bordeaux, especially concerning the building of that £5 million training centre; Bernard Tapie furiously denying charges of chicanery brought by another judge over Marseille affairs.

Accusations and counter-accusations by Bez and Tapie over the alleged fixing of matches or attempts to fix them; half a dozen clubs living in fear and trembling, not only of the criminal courts, but of enforced relegation by the French League.

As Jean Sadoul, the league president, recently pointed out, the automatic penalty for cooking the books is relegation. A Second Division with Bordeaux, Toulon and several other major clubs in it? Quite a prospect.

A clutch of well-known players, most of them connected at one time or another with Toulon, are under fire while Bordeaux are the bagatelle of £24 million in the red.

Catastrophe

In the middle of it all is promotional giant Jean Claude Damon.

His 1973 meeting with Sadoul is seen by many as the crucial factor in the rapid transformation of French football. He made fortunes for the international team in World Cups and Eur Championships, plus a great deal of money for himself.

In ten years, football's takings rose from 37 million francs a year to nearly a billion. Darmon took time to convince Sadoul, but he managed it, to the extent that the outspoken Sadoul would eventually say that he regarded him as a son.

Not only did Darmon work with the league and the federation: his grip spread to no fewer than 12 of the 20 First Division clubs.

The one that got away, among the big teams, was Marseille, whose commercial interests are handled by Claude Ghidalia. Tapie must now be pleased about that!

The president of Sochaux, Jacques Thouzer, had this to say when Darmond was arraigned: "His conviction would be a catastrophe for FC Sochaux. Thanks to him, our publicity receipts have gone up more than ten times. I am surprised and incredulous."

In February Sadoul somewhat rashly proclaimed: "I can tell you today that there has been no malfeasance by any president who has taken a single centime, and no slush fund." Well, well ...

Without Darmon and the sponsorship he so abundantly brought in, say the presidents and administrators of the French game, football could not go on. Carlo Molinair, president of Metz, puts his finger on it, surely, when he says that it was somewhat regrettable that the league and the federation should have given Darmon, prematurely, such a monopoly.

Darmon's business rival, Ghidalia, he of Marseille and many another enterprise, developed the theme by saying: "Darmon was in an ivory tower. He believed himself to be untouchable, and that's where one begins to get up to stupid tricks." The word used was somewhat stronger.

Companies

So it came about that Darmon was accused of operating a dozen "front" companies, and of embezzling at least 13 million francs: chicken-feed really, by comparison with the volume of business he brought in.

Toulon and Matra Racing, the club who eventually died as a result of Matra's withdrawing its support, were alleged to be involved. Toulon up to the neck.

Now it is like some ghastly snowball, hurtling downhill. Nice are accused of possessing 600,000 francs of false receipts. Auxerre, Toulouse, Bordeaux join the list of the accused.

On and on the great snowball rolls. Roland Courbis of Toulon, whose transfer deals have fascinated the police, goes into the pokey. Armed police barge into a training session at Marseille.

Not that Tapie's club were being accused of anything nefarious. Yet.

But goalkeeper Pascal Olmeta, who had been with Toulon two clubs back, international stopper Bernard Casoni and Bernard Pardo, the midfielder, were all under suspicion as ex-Toulon men, allegedly receiving illegal payments.

Confidence

At Toulon itself, no fewer than seven people came under suspicion for illegal payments from a slush fund – notably the hapless Couris.

The Bez family? Allegedly using municipal money partly to finance the building of holiday developments in Senegal, of all places.

"Abuse of confidence, forgery and the use of forged documents" are among the charges brought against Bez – though a high-ranking police officer has said that it was a bit much to drag his son into court with his hands manacled.

By the time you read this, goodness knows how many vile creatures will have crawled out from under stones. It is plain enough that the league and federation are deeply at fault, giving Darmon the free rein he has manifestly had.

Jean-Francois Guiraud was actually forced out of business by Darmon; yet most objectively, it is the French soccer authorities whom he blames rather than Darmon himself. He gave up his Match Marketing Publicity in total despair when contracts he might legitimately have been expected to gain went to Darmon instead.

All power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. And absolute power is what the French soccer authorities effectively conferred upon Darmon. As for all the double and treble dealing by Toulon and Bordeaux, it scarcely needed a Darmon as the catalyst.

The Saint Etienne affair, we now see, was by no means an isolated phenomenon.

Jean Claude Damon watches over a deal with president of the French Federation Jean Fournet-Fayard while Claude Bez looks on.

Bordeaux: blunder after blunder

Antoine Bell ... rare mistake.

BORDEAUX'S players seemed to be shell-shocked by all the fuss when they went to Rome for the first leg of the UEFA Cup third round. How else to explain the truly ridiculous first three goals conceded by a team who had not conceded one in four European games?

Rudi Voeller could scarcely believe his luck when, early on, Cameroon veteran keeper Joseph Antoine Bell game out to collect what looked like an easy ball, inexplicably fumbled and dropped it, allowing Voeller to run it into the empty net.

Then came some shocking positional play in defence, which led to Lizarazu, the Basque defender, clumsily bringing down Gerolin, for Voeller to pot the penalty.

After four minutes of the second half, even the mighty Patrick Battiston blundered, a careless header allowing Gerolin to hit an empty net.

Still looking on the bright side, at least Bordeaux did not take very long to find a replacement for the intransigent Bez. He is an industrialist called Alain Afflelou, who has made a fortune from the optical manufacturing world, and previously showed interest in Monaco, Marseille and Paris SG.

WEST GERMANY
BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

A sad sign of the times ... uniforms to the fore at a German fixture.

HAUNTED BY HOOLIGANS

Violence is a growing threat

THE spectre of hooliganism, which for many years, seemed to be confined to Britain and Holland, is now haunting German football on an unprecedented scale.

Outbreaks of violence especially in the eastern part of the country, now reunited with the Western Football Federation, are threatening the new social order and could have far reaching repercussions for German soccer as a whole.

The country's leading sports paper, Kicker, summed up the general feeling by condemning the hooligans, "who are not friends, but enemies, of football, bent on destruction. They are using the game as a platform for their excesses and aspirations, whatever these may be".

Not surprisingly the DFB cancelled the match between West and East Germany scheduled for Leipzig (where the first German FA was founded in January 1900). One reason was that the Zentralstadion, though build to hold 95,000 spectators, lacks adequate security measures.

But the decision was described by Carl-Dieter Spranger, Germany's Secretary of State, as "an act of capitulation to the hooligans". He also was critical of the statement issued by the German Police Federation, that "the DFB is only interested in VIP lounges and leaves the control of troublemakers to the police".

Undoubtedly German football is passing through a traumatically difficult phase. Discipline always has been a strong feature of the German character, so this widely-publicised fracas gave the nation a nasty shock to the system. Few can comprehend that such scandalous incidents can happen in their country.

According to reliable sources, hooliganism was always evident, though sometimes dormant, in the old East Germany – only the authorities suppressed any news about it! All over Germany efforts are now being made to curb and eventually to eliminate the acts of aggression at football matches.

FIFA are taking an active interest in the developments. General secretary Sepp Blatter said: "We were surprised during the World Cup to find that German fans caused trouble. We were expecting problems with the English, Italian and Dutch rowdies, but not the Germans. Perhaps this new trend there has not been pinpointed early enough.

"I don't think football can be made responsible for these acts of violence. It is a case for the education authorities and for parental control. They must teach and instil order."

Blatter added: "We have sent circulars to all affiliated FAs urging them to build all-seater stadia as a vital step towards peace inside the grounds.

"But if these criminal elements continue to vandalise cities and terrorise the inhabitants, then we shall have to look into the possibility of banning German teams from international competition."

Meanwhile the old East German FA (DFV) still hope to persuade UEFA to allow four clubs to enter the next European tournaments for the last time, in order to earn some much-needed money.

In the Bundesliga managerial changes made the big news. VfB Stuttgart's Willi Entenmann, who took over from the Dutchman Arie Haan last March, was sacked and gave way to Christoph Daum, from Koln. Haan is now managing Nurnberg.

Horst Wohlers, team manager at Bayer Uerdingen, resigned because "there was no support from the board of directors".

His replacement is the old-timer "Timo" Konietzka, who made his name over many years in Switzerland.

An interesting statistic shows that only three managers in the Bundesliga enjoy total control: Kalli Feldkamp (Kaiserslautern), Jurgen Gelsdorf (Bayer Leverkusen) and Otto Rehhagel (Werder Bremen).

Those who are reckoned to have "a lot of influence", include Jupp Heynckes (Bayern Munich), Horst Koppel (Borussia Dortmund) and Haan.

Werder Bremen's challenge at the top did not last long; they were beaten 1-0 by Kaiserslautern who displaced them.

Bayern Munich, a point behind, made headlines when they trounced Wattenscheid by 7-0, with two goals apiece from Danish international Brian Laudrup and the Bundesliga's top scorer, Roland Wohlfarth, who has nine.

The champions are still trying to off-load reserve forwards Radmilo Mihajlovic and Alan McInally. Both rejected a move to bottom-placed Hertha Berlin.

But Afflelou's fortunes began in Bordeaux, where he opened an optician's shop. He now has 360.

He sponsored Monaco when they won the championship; 15 per cent of his promotion budget was invested, he said, in football, and it seemed to bring results, off the field and in the various opticians'! He didn't stay with Marseille because, he said, the financial conditions he was offered were not acceptable.

Afflelou left A.S. Monaco in high dudgeon, claiming that they had brought in a host of other sponsors without telling him. But he seems to have gone back on the position he adopted when he left Marseille, claiming that football, with all its scandals, was projecting a bad image, no good for business. He would come back to the game only when things had calmed down.

Instead of which he comes back at the very bottom of the market, at a time when the image of French football, its moral image at least, has never been worse.

Afflelou still only 42, born in Algeria, father of three, had already put his trademark on Paris Saint-Germain shirts for this season. Now here he is at Bordeaux. A pity things could not have gone better for him, and for them, in Rome.

SWITZERLAND

SWISS SWITCH

RECENT impressive form by the Swiss national team is partly responsible for the renewed interest in top players among clubs in other countries.

The Turkish-born Kubilay Turkyilmaz of Servette recently signed for Italy's Bologna for £1.4 million, having obtained a three-year contract. It is the most expensive transfer in Swiss history.

Turkyilmaz scored 50 goals in 126 Swiss League matches.

The next international striker to take the plunge will be Stephane Chapuisat, 21, who is negotiating with Germany's Bayer Uerdingen. Lausanne are not happy about losing their brightest star and manager Umberto Barberis blames Chapuisat's father, Pierre-Albert, a former international, who is apparently behind his son's move to the Bundesliga.

Stephane could make a small fortune, for according to a clause in his contract Lausanne will receive only £240,000. The remainder estimated at £880,000 goes to the player. He is the league's top scorer with 13 goals and will be sadly missed.

After an indifferent start, only 11 goals in 14 games. Xamax Neuchatel moved up the table mainly because of their reliable defence, the best in the league.

Egyptian Hany Ramzy, one of his country's outstanding performers in the World Cup, forms a powerful block with the Swedish international Peter Lonn.

New English team manager Roy Hodgson is optimistic that Xamax could yet win the championship.

Disturbing statistics are causing concern to the football authorities. After 17 rounds of the championship there were 3,337 fouls, 240 bookings and 11 sendings-off. The worst behaved team, St. Galen, had 29 yellow cards and two red.

FC Sion led the table followed by Lausanne, title-holders Grasshoppers, and Xamax.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

ITALY BY KEIR RADNEDGE

INTER LEAD THE UEFA CUP ROUT

Agony as Inter's Jurgen Klinsmann is crash-tackled by Budmir Vujacic of Partizan in Belgrade.

ITALIAN clubs are threatening a clean sweep again in the UEFA Cup.

Last season Juventus beat Fiorentina in the final and a repeat could be in prospect after Italy's clubs wiped West Germany out of the UEFA Cup at the third-round stage.

Internazionale are leading the way. Not only did they push their way to the top of the Italian League with a 5-1 away win over Cesena – Lothar Matthaus scored twice, Jurgen Klinsmann once – but they dismissed awkward European challenges from Aston Villa and Partizan Belgrade on their way to the quarter-finals.

Matthaus, World Soccer's World Player of the Year, West German Footballer of the Year and runaway favourite for the European Footballer of the Year crown, believes Inter are on course for their second Italian title in three seasons. He has set the example. With seven goals he is the league's leading scorer, his efforts covering up the gaps caused by Inter's niggling injury problems. Andy Brehme has been absent for several weeks but the way the rest of the squad have responded makes Inter look a good bet to succeed Juventus as UEFA Cup-holders.

Casualties

Champions Napoli are Italy's only European casualties, having fallen to Spartak Moscow in the Champions' Cup. But newly-recrowned world club champions Milan look as strong as ever and reviving Juventus – Toto Schillaci having rediscovered his World Cup form to make up for Pierluigi Casiraghi's shoulder injuries – are strong contenders in the Cup-winners' Cup.

As for the UEFA Cup, Inter beat Partizan, Rome massacred French crisis club Bordeaux – Rudi Voller hit a first leg hat-trick, Bordeaux keeper Antoine-Joseph Bell was sent off in the second leg – Atalanta beat Koln and league strugglers Bologna produced a storming rally at home to defeat Admira Wacker.

Bologna's comebacks seem to get better with each round. After overturning a 3-1 deficit against Scotland's Hearts in round two, Bologna cancelled out Admira Wacker's 3-0 first-leg lead to force extra time. German striker Herbert Waas scored after six minutes, veteran Antonio Cabrini made no mistake with a penalty, and defender Fabio Negri scored the third.

In the penalty shoot-out, Alois Dotzl missed for the Austrians and Giuseppe Lorenzo fired the decisive kick for Bologna.

Roberto Baggio has been outstanding in the league so far this term. He continued to justify the world record £8 million fee when his brilliant free-kick 13 minutes from time salvaged a 1-1 draw for Juventus against local rivals Torino.

The new Delle Alpi stadium in Turin is one of four – Genoa, Rome and Milan are the others – whose pitch conditions are causing concern. But Turin and Genoa are nothing like as bad as Rome and the Olimpico turf is nothing like as disastrous as the mudpatch in Milan's Stadio Meazza.

Indeed, the Italian govenment is to hold an inquiry into the pitch scandal. Augusto Castagna, sports director of the Milan city council, which owns San Siro, has said the pitch is so bad the city should build another stadium. He says the new, multi-million-pound roof prevents enough light entering for the grass to grow properly, and blames FIFA and Luca di Montezemolo, head of the World Cup organising committee, for insisting it be built.

FIFA have sidestepped the charge by insisting that they did not insist the roof be built, only that the VIP area be covered.

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

Happy days are here again!

"IT WAS time we showed what we can do," said a relieved Marco van Basten. Holland's 2-0 victory over Greece, the best Dutch match since 1988, restored some of the side's lost pride and left the European Champions a chance of prolonging their title.

This was only the second Dutch win of 1990, and it came after three successive defeats; a disgrace for a team with such ability.

Van Basten ... captain of his country for the first time.

The Dutch looked the side of old. "At times our football was very beautiful to see, wasn't it?" asked van Basten. "We must continue along this road. We've made a new start."

The road he refers to is the way of 4-3-3. Against Greece, Holland fielded Ajax wingers John van't Schip and Bryan Roy, and the result was devastating.

When Rinus Michels returned after the World Cup, he announced that in what he called "modern football" there is no place for wingers or even for attacking football. This may not seem a revolutionary thought, and it was a notable about-turn for a manager who owes his successs to total football, but Michels zealously set about tying Holland to his new iine.

Unhappy

The result was two boring 1-0 defeats in Italy and Portugal. In the two matches, the Dutch managed one shot at goal.

The players were unhappy, the press even more so. Michels, who had appointed himself as manager, was in a weak position. So in the days before the crucial match against Greece, he called his team together and asked for their thoughts. He proposed a 4-4-2 formation. As one man the players begged for 4-3-3.

Cleverly, Michels gave them their wish, thus passing to them the responsibility for possible defeat. Also, the tactic allowed him to play the system which he now realised to be most suited to Holland, without having to admit his initial mistake.

The new style displeased only one Dutchman. The team's decision to field just one central striker, van Basten, meant that Wim Kieft lost the place which Michels had mentally reserved for him. Kieft admitted he was unable to motivate himself on the bench so he flew home to Bordeaux. The fear is that he will become a new Frank Rijkaard.

Without Kieft, the Dutch used Ajax's structure to demolish Greece, seven of the Ajax side played in the match. The captain, for the first time, was van Basten who scored his first goal for Holland since before the World Cup, and after months of sulking, finally looked as though he was enjoying playing for Holland.

The other goal came from Ajax's Dannis Bergkamp who made his international debut against Italy in September, now has three caps, and is joint highest scorer in the league with 11 goals.

At the start of the season, he was often to be found on the bench, and Feyenoord made a bid for him. Leo Beenhakker turned it down.

Bobby Robson's PSV are matching Ajax in points but not in play, though they have shown an improvement in recent weeks.

Admiration

Groningen and Den Haag are winning admiration and should be on parade in Europe next season. Groningen have solved a financial crisis largely by cutting season ticket prices. As a result their attendances have risen to an average of over 14,000, from under 9,000 last season.

The team's star is striker Hennie Meijor, but the man most praised is quiet, modest manager Hans Westerhof.

Den Haag's manager, Ko Adriaanse, is Westerhof's opposite, but he is equally admired. Adriaanse claims all credit for his club's success – once last season he dropped the highest scorer for praising him insufficiently in an interview!

Adriaanse's system is very like Ajax's, he calls the formation "the Christmas tree" because that is what it looks like on the chalkboard.

Abuse

The club's problems are all on the terraces. in recent weeks, Den Haag's followers have destroyed a train in Rotterdam and chanted anti-Semitic abuse in Amsterdam.

The one Dutch club left in Europe, Vitesse Arnhem, were knocked out of the UEFA Cup in the third round by Sporting Lisbon.

Nobody was surprised. Apart from the obvious differences between Vitesse and Sporting, no Dutch club has survived the winter in the UEFA Cup since 1981. A sad and telling statistic.

Bologna stage a sensational comeback to beat Admira Wacker in second-leg penalty shoot-out. Cabrini made no mistake with his spot-kick.

GREECE BY LOUIS ECONOMOPOULOS

Drachma debt is piling up

If the Greek government were to enforce the law against First Division teams owing money to the state, only two of the 18 would be allowed to play – Panathinaikos Athens and Aris Salonica.

All the others owe something to either the tax office or the state-run social insurance plan.

The various governments over the past few years have looked the other way as clubs continued to owe more and more.

The biggest debt is 700 million drachmas, about £2.5 million, by Olympiakos Piraeus. Another major club, AEK Athens, owe around £650,000.

To add to the problems, attendances are dropping steadily this season, with 5,500 fans on the average at each First Division match.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

Tanju Colak.

TANJU GOALS ARE VITAL

THE halfway point in the season arrived with Galatasaray comfortably placed at the top, six points ahead of Trabzonspor and Besiktas.

They had won eight home games and two away, drawn two at home and one away, and lost only at Trabzonspor, 3-0.

Galatasaray also provided the leading scorer, Tanju, with 11 goals, including three in two vital derby matches.

He scored in a 1-1 draw with Besiktas, then hit both in a 2-1 defeat of Fenerbahce. Galatasaray did well to win after having Yusuf sent off as early as the 23rd minute.

Penalty

Two newcomers appeared in the Fenerbahce strip for the first time – Sercan Gorgulu, signed from Sarlyer of Istanbul, and Oceslaw Jakokcewicz from Lech Posnan.

The latter scored from a penalty to level matters, but Tanju headed a late winner, shortly before Hasan of Fenerbahce was ordered off.

In yet another derby match, Fenerbahce drew 1-1 with Besiktas, with a goal by Ismail near the end.

Metin had put Besiktas in front with a fine header, but was then sent off for swearing at the referee.

Galatasaray will take some catching, but they have far more away games than home coming up, and it's not all over yet.

Osim ... has been turned into a hero by his instant success.

YUGOSLAVIA BY TIMOTHY COLLINS

Ethnic threat to title hope

YUGOSLAVIA'S smooth progress towards the European championship finals with one of the continent's most talented teams could be upset by the ethnic tension that has taken grip of the country's club football, but improved by Dragan Stojkovic's return after injury.

Riots on the terraces and aggravation in the boardrooms among men whose sense of identity is more strongly tied up with their home regions than their 'nation' have all but overshadowed the remarkable job performed by national coach Ivic Osim.

He has had to do a supreme political balancing act between not only the ethnic regions of Yugoslavia – and particularly between Croatia and Serbia – but also between the old 'exiled' players who have moved abroad and the talented youngsters who stayed at home.

At first, his decisions to retain the "foreign legion" earned him severe criticism, but recent results, particulary Yugoslavia's perfect qualifying record after their three opening matches on the road to the European finals, have helped change minds.

Osim's initial success in leading his team to a 2-0 win in Belfast against Northern Ireland was one thing, but it was the 4-1 win over Austria at the end of October in Yugoslavia's 500th international fixture that turned him into a local hero.

After being the butt of jokes and criticism, Osim became the unifying force in a period of domestic chaos, and this feeling was intensified when he guided his team to a 2-0 win over Denmark in Copenhagen.

Second-half goals from Mehmed Bazdarevic and Robert Jarni were scant reward for the supremacy of the injury-hit Yugoslav team, but the victory took them three points clear of Denmark and made them virtual certainties to qualify.

The most likely source of domestic trouble was from Hadjuk Split, when their fans ran amok during the fixture against Partizan Belgrade.

The Croatians were punished by having to play their next four home matches more than 150 kilometres away – a sanction that did not prevent them from beating Osijek 3-0 in Varazdin.

Hadjuk, however, slipped to 17th in the table, sacked coach Luka Peruzovic and suffered internal problems when they pulled off an unusual feat by signing United States World Cup defender Desmond Armstrong on a one-year contract, so reversing the normal drain of talent from east to west.

Briefly

Stojkovic, the star midfielder who moved to Marseille after the World Cup finals, flew back to Belgrade to convalesce after a knee operation in Colmar and is expected back in action by the end of February.

While Stojkovic flew home, however, another Yugoslav talent flew in the other direction and disappeared briefly. The 18-year-old Igor Jovicevic, of Dinamo, re-appeared in France, where he was said to be attracting great interest from Auxerre, Paris Saint Germain and Monaco.

Jovocevic's rush to the west had more to do with ambition than the upheaval at Dinamo, where the club have changed their identity completely by bringing in a new committee, coach and name.

Meanwhile, Red Star showed dominating form in the First Division and went six points clear of Partizan at the top.

SWEDEN BY PENTI HEITANEN

IFK make it a dozen

A TEDIOUS 0-0 draw with Norrkoping in the second leg of the play off was enough for IFK Gothenburg to clinch their 12th Swedish title.

They had underlined their superiority with a convincing 3-0 away win.

Perhaps it is still too early to say whether this present IFK side can reach the heights of the all-star outfit who won the UEFA Cup in 1987, but at least they are young and improving all the time.

And in Roger Gustafsson Gothenburg employ a shrewd coach burning with ambition.

He was a shock nomination for the post vacated by Kjell Petterson in 1989, and had an uneasy start as Gothenburg went down 6-0 to the Brolin – inspired Norrkoping in the opening match of the season.

Besides, Gustafsson was rumoured to be at odds with midfield star Stefan Rehn, having publicly criticised him for taking too many things for granted.

The coach, however, skilfully weathered the storm and once the league resumed after the World Cup break, there was nobody in Sweden who could keep in touch with the youthful "Angels".

"Roger is a great motivator and knows how to get the best from his players," says Mikael Niksson, one of Gustafsson's discoveries at sweeper.

Nilsson, Norwegian stopper Tore Pedersen, midfielder Hakan Mildh and strikers Kaj Eskelinen and Kenneth Andersson are the new stars of the team, while the experience is provided by Rehn, goalkeeper Tomas Ravelli and stopper Ola Svensson.

Rehn ... the best player, but not the Player of the Year.

Club director Thomas Wernerson, former goalkeeper with IFK and Sweden, is emerging as one of the most influential men in the Swedish game.

He arranged Rehn's move back to Sweden from Everton, and Rehn was the best player in the league this past season, even though the Player Of The Year title was won by striker Brolin, currently with Italy's Parma. He was one of Sweden's few bright spots during the World Cup finals.

League runners-up Norrkoping will be coached by Sanny Aslund next season. Aslund, recently with AIK Stockholm, is a former international forward.

EAST GERMANY BY BOB VAUGHAN

FCB on the way out

HALF-TIME in the final Oberliga championship sees ten-time consecutive "Meister" FC Berlin trailing hopelessly in the table, equal bottom with Sachsen Leipzig and promoted Vorwaerts Frankfurt/Oder.

Ex-Minister Mielke can do little from prison to help the club he sponsored for so long and who used to jet around Europe in his government plane, a travel saving other GDR EC participants were not granted.

FCB cannot shake off their Stasi image, have no fans, suffer the taunts of hooligans and are on the slippery slope to at best the amateur ranks in 1991-92 and at worst to folding up.

Few tears will be shed. Players have no wish to join the club, an artificial creation, but even if FCB were a popular institution there would hardly be room in Berlin on a commercial basis for another club. Hertha in the Bundesliga, Blau-Weiss in BL1 and Union in the new, third class Oberliga will suffice.

Hansa head the table, and a top club on the Baltic Coast is not such a bad idea, though south German sides will not relish the distance. Coach Uwe Reinders has been almost the only West German success in the East.

The Leipzig new boys have slipped from the top to being a flop, there have been scandals on and off the field, money is lacking and they could well join FCB in disappearing to amateur football or going under.

Hooliganism continues to grow, and each weekend the police have been at full stretch throughout the former Democratic Republic. The result is poor gates, empty-handed treasurers and no investment in improving grounds.

Compared with the same period in 1989-90, 404,537 spectators have stayed away. Just under 430,000 attended the autumn league games, an average of 4,777 against last season's 9,263.

POLAND

Katowice win half a title

THE first half of the championship ended with Katowice at the top and Gornik's Kraus the leading goalscorer, on 12.

The "Miners" from Zabrze could manage only fifth place. Who would have guessed when the season began that the two Cracow clubs would be ahead of them at the break?

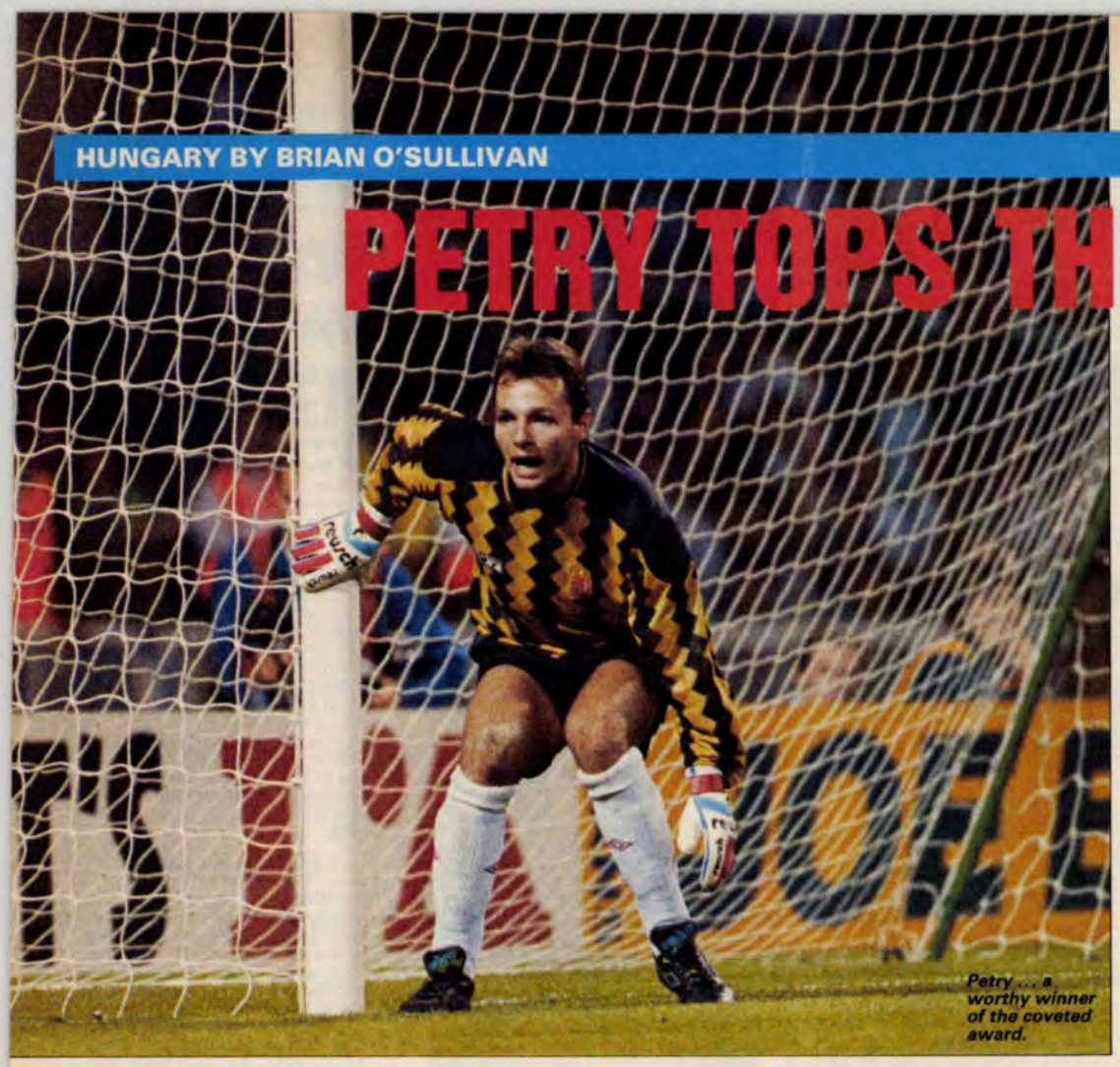
In the last autumn series of fixtures Katowice had to visit Warsaw for a title-deciding match. The Silesians dominated scoring through Kubiszthal and Walczak, and there was little Legia could do about it.

Hutnik, the promoted team, have been a surprise packet. They finished second, with striker Waligora a revelation. How long can they hold on to him?

Champions Lech were given a boost by ending a series of Gornik wins, but have been generally disappointing.

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

PETRY TOPS THE POLL



Petry ... a worthy winner of the coveted award.

ZSOLT Petry, Hungary's 24-year-old goalkeeper is the country's first players' Player of the Year.

He won the award in the first poll of players by the Professional Players' Association from Denes Vaczi, the Tatabanya forward, who was second, and Pal Fischer, of Ferencvaros, who was third.

Petry, previously at Videton-Waltham and one of a host of newcomers this season at Budapest Honved, the leaders at the winter break, has fast reactions, safe hands, and anticipates well, thus enhancing his positioning.

Vaczi has pushed Fischer in the goalscoring table, the latter leading it for most of the autumn season and highlighting his efforts by being marked a maximum ten points by the respected Nemzeti Sport's Pal Borbeley in the 4-0 win over Videoton for his three goals, one "goal-pass" and technically exact play.

Petry's team managed by Gyorgy Mezey lead by two points over Ferencvaros, who have Tibor Nyilasi in charge, both men having their first team with each club, Nyilasi his first in management!

Mezey has restored Honved's morale after a horrendous season. He has proved once again that the true coach can "make football" by choosing the required players and amalgamating their talents.

He can be extremely satisfied with the team's position but, equally, the sight of Istvan Vincze on the pitch for the last half-dozen matches was pleasing, too.

Mezey has published his coaching book Preparation for First Division Footballers and became a Doctor of Physical Education, being awarded the Doctorate by the national University of Physical Education in Budapest, on January 1.

Wasted

Nyilasi, meanwhile, has seen his club's encouraging showing undermined by irresponsible, so-called, supporters whose actions at two UEFA Cup matches resulted in hefty fines. Much of the financial sponsorship coming from Jean-Claude Bras, the Frenchman and Hargata, a Hungarian company also sponsoring Fradi, has been wasted.

That Vac Izzo, a petty-cash club a short drive north of Budapest, finished in third position, with the same 22 points as Ferencvaros, and that they actually led the race after the 13th round, asks questions of the opposition faced by the two big-city clubs.

Vac have no international players, many have previously been at other clubs, yet their good physical conditions and workmanlike approach has got them by.

Veszprem, in fourth place, are a slightly different case, being the last team to be beaten and having a more vibrant approach.

This may change in the spring season as their young manager, Robert Glazer, will assist Kalman Meszoly, the national team trainer, having been unable to convince his club president, Jozsef Kiss the owner of a brewery, that he could combine the two.

Karoly Pecse, in charge of the team at Raba ETO, of Gyor, and a Czech citizen, asked the club to pay him in hard currency to meet his country's currency regulations. They refused, took into account the team's mid-table position, and dismissed him.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Slavia slither to the top

Jordanov ... he is the top scorer for Lok Go.

THE autumnal half-season slithered to its conclusion in snow and ice. The leader after 15 matches was neither CSKA nor Levski, but the fans' favourite, Slavia.

On the last Saturday of the half-season Etyr saw off Levski 4-2, Lok slipped to sixth place by losing 3-1 at Cernomorets, and CSKA surprisingly dropped a home point in a 1-1 draw with Pirin.

Another shock was doomed Haskovo's 2-0 victory over Botev, who were without Zehtinski and Rakov, suspended for three and 12 months respectively following the brawl in the game with Slavia in November.

Slavia were at home to Lok Go, and snow did not prevent an absorbing game.

Lok took the lead when Jordanov, their top scorer, netted from a corner. But Slavia were soon back on terms, and two second-half goals meant the country's oldest club could be reasonably happy on their way into hibernation for three months following an autumn of discontent off the field and not the success expected on it.

In an attempt to resolve the conflict between management and players two meetings were called in November, but insufficient numbers attended.

Club president General Pentchev has resigned, soldiers who help run the club and are important members of the committee have withdrawn, and new staff, who will have to be paid, will be needed. An AGM cannot be held in present circumstances.

At the Bulgarian Football Union things are not much better. A gathering is planed to decide what is to happen now that the much maligned and threatened president, Mr Tepavitcharov, has resigned.

On the international front the less said the better.

SOVIET UNION

MOSCOW has five clubs in the top division again, with Lok replacing Rotor Volgagrad after winning a play off.

Lok were only fourth in the Second, but had a convincing win over Rotor, bottom of the First, and were rewarded with a trip to Bermuda to play a couple of friendlies.

In the Cup, Spartak beat Dinamo, CSKA eliminated Dnepr, Minsk accounted for Donetsk, and Torpedo took time off from European preparations to eliminate Karparti Lvov.

The crowning of champions Kiev was witnessed by only 5,000 spectators. No longer do party bosses turn out to hand over medals and trophies; this time it was Michel Platini by satellite on a large screen in the Ukrainia Palace.

The Federation have announced that 16 clubs will compete in the Elite League in 1992. "Below stairs" all the Ukrainian Second Division clubs will leave that competition to form a new League with their compatriots from Division Three.

The winners of this Super Ukrainian Second League will be promoted directly to the Elite League to replace the lowest Ukrainian club at the end of 1991. This applies even if the six Ukrainian clubs finish in the first six places!

The Federation put paid to the chances of clubs from Georgia and Lithuania returned to the All-Soviet League by another odd but clear decision.

If, for example, Dinamo Tbilisi or Zhalgiris Vilnius want to return to top Soviet football, they may now do so only by starting again in Division Three. It is difficult to envisage either of them agreeing, even if it were a purely football matter – which it never will be.

BOB VAUGHAN

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

STARS FADE OUT

Lindenberger: World Cup 'keeper was one of the five to be dropped.

THE Austrian national team continued to slide in the European Championship qualifying group four, and could only draw 0-0 at home with a modest Northern Ireland side.

The Austrians are now bottom of this section, even behind the Faroe Islands, and will remain there at least until May 1991, when their next tie is scheduled at home to ... the Faroes, who beat them sensationally back in September.

The new national team manager, Alfred Riedl, will need time and patience from all quarters and can now spend the winter break contemplating a radical overhaul of personnel, tactics and attitude to international football.

The catastrophic defeats of Austrian teams in the European competitions – FC Tirol lost to Real Madrid on an 11-3 aggregate, FK Austria lost 8-0 to Juventus – only served to underline the sorry state of the game.

Tirol boss Ernst Happel reacted to the slump by dropping five of his so-called stars.

Defender Streiter, midfielders Linzmaie and Hortnagl and striker Pacult, who all played against Yugoslavia in the 4-1 European championship debacle, were all axed, and so was World Cup keeper Lindenberger.

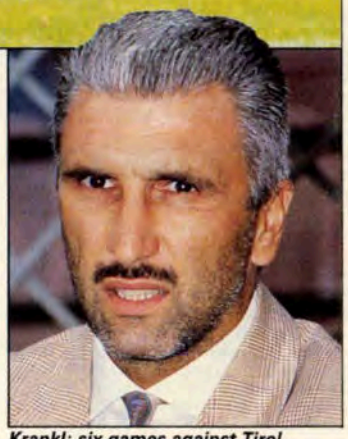
Happel is hoping that this shock therapy will keep to save what vestige of reputation Austrian football has left.

Without these five players Tirol still drew 0-0 at First Vienna, to return to the top of the table.

Rapid lost 1-0 to bottom-placed St Polten, where 'keeper Konsel and the highly-rated playmaker Herzog failed miserably.

"It's always the same," stormed Rapid team chief Hans Krankl. "After every bad international, Rapid are made the scapegoat."

The Rapidler had another reason to feel sour. Since Krankl took over 15 months ago, they have played against Tirol on six occasions and have never won once.



Krankl: six games against Tirol without a single victory.

ROMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Mircea is the new manager

MIRCEA Radulescu's appointment as national team manager has been confirmed, something that some critics say should have happened back in 1988.

He was not without rivals but the Federation failed to land their first choice, Boloni. He would not be persuaded. Perhaps they thought he could "do a Balkan Beckenbauer" but it was not to be. Second choice Lucescu, struggling to keep Pisa from relegation, could hardly afford the time to run a national squad half way across Europe.

He would not have been a welcome choice in influential Steaua circles.

Radulescu said on his appointment, "We are starting again from zero." The forthcoming Euro'92 visit of San Marino to Bucharest should be a good opportunity to see how far from zero his revamped squad can progress.

Crushed

Only one player now outside Romania was in Radulescu's first squad – Timofte of Bayer Leverkusen.

Craiova maintained their lead and took the winter crown by a point from Steaua and two from Dinamo. In the last game before the break Arges Pitesti were crushed 4-0, bringing a smile to manager Sorin Cirster's face.

The Bucharest clubs are suffering from loses abroad of key men but the federation have agreed that Steaua can play Popa, who scored one of the three goals to defeat Sibiu. This puts the "Stars" only a point behind Craiova, who will be challenged by Dinamo, too.

Craiova have gained administrative and financial independence by signing a deal with the University Senate, as well as selling Popescu to PSV. The money can now be utilised by the club for development.

Steaua and Dinamo are not so far forward in the privatisation stakes but must be wondering what they will have to do behind the scenes and on the field.

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

ERIK TO THE RESCUE

ONLY two minutes separated Finland from a humiliating defeat against Malta in the European championship qualifing fixture in Valetta.

The Finns, out of season, never settled, and Malta were leading 1-0 when defender Erik Holmgren threw himself into one last, desperate assault and managed to poke in the equaliser with almost the final shot of the match.

Holmgren, 26, has played for the past two season in Sweden, for GAIS Gothenburg, and is rated as one of the most consistent Finnish players at full international level.

The Finnish league will have a new format next season. The play-off rounds will be scrapped at last and the league will be played over three rounds with 33 matches.

The game in Finland still remains the poorest supported in Scandinavia, well behind Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Attendances are dropping, while pesapallo, a Finnish version of baseball, and even American football show a healthy increase.

CZECHOSLAVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Tight at the top

FOOTBALL is currently overshadowed by other preoccupations, economic, organisational and political. The latest could have a profound effect on life in general: the spectre of the former CSSR splitting into Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia.

Slovak nationalists want their own association and league, although separatism would bring loss of FIFA and UEFA recognition, probably even less resource for sport and likely further reduction in interest, certainly at domestic level.

Football-watching is becoming more expensive. The average gate is only around 2,000 in the top division, and Sparta had a mere 5,310 for a crucial match with the leaders Cheb.

Sparta, who have struggled over the past three months, managed to take the points through goals by Novotny, Football of the Year Bilek and Pazdere.

Loss of star players, the row over the sacking of President Adamec, and declining support have not helped, but only six points separate the first 13 clubs so there is still all to play for.

At the bottom Brno are six points adrift and can hardly expect to escape again.

Future

Outside the country the "exports" are not all meeting with success. Poor Stejskal has not been able to emulate the success of Miklosko at West Ham, and is experiencing the rigours of the Football Combination on December weekday afternoons.

In Northern Germany an unhappy Knoflicek ponders his future, which will not be in Hamburg. He has a court appearance to face, his agent claiming he is owed some £125,000.

What the player's position will be if he loses does not bear thinking about.

Knoflicek has had a bad season so far. He last scored in early September ... from a penalty.

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Cruyff grows to coaching greatness

But he's still moaning too much

SPANISH fans are starting to cast an envious eye towards countries like Belgium or Italy where a handful of teams are engaged in riveting battles destined, it seems, to last right through into May. The Spanish league could effectively be killed off on the 19th of this month.

That's when Barcelona entertain Real Madrid in the Camp Nou. And, unless something drastic happens in the first skirmishes of the New Year, a victory could give Johan Cruyff's team a virtually unassailable lead.

The metamorphosis of Cruyff has been one of the keynotes of the season so far. He is showing signs of maturing into a great coach. Gone is the frivolous approach to the job. Gone is the devil-may-care fragility of his defensive system. Gone are the whims of "blooding" inexperienced youngsters at the expense of established stars. Gone is the obsession with playing Big Names out of position. Gone are the public criticisms of his players via the media. And gone is Barca's infuriatingly erratic form – a buck which seems to have been surreptiously slipped into Madrid.

The clash between the Big Two will have the Barcelona security forces manning all the pumps, following a tumultuous curtain-raiser early in December. The Spanish Federation had insisted that the two clubs should dispute the Supercopa on consecutive Wednesdays, despite Barcelona's requests to postpone it until April. Cruyff also had the additional problems of injuries to Koeman, Laudrup, Begiristain and – at the eleventh hour – Goicoechea, who agonisingly passed a kidney stone a few hours before kick-off.

Stoichkov: his notorious temper again reached boiling point.

With central defender Serna also suspended, Cruyff opted to bring in defenders Alex and Herrera plus midfielder Carreras (nicknamed Hughes for his likeness to the Welshman) from the nursery side. Di Stefano fielded his full side, with the exception of Hagi.

All was relatively quiet until the 40th minute, when Chendo tackled Stoichkov right in front of the Barcelona dug-out, and referee Urizar Azpitarte failed to award the Bulgarian striker a free kick. Cruyff emerged shouting from the dug-out; refused point-blank to obey the "shut up and sit down" advice from the ref, and was duly sent off, just as he had been when Barcelona played Real Madrid last February.

Trying

At this point, Stoichkov's notorious temper reached boiling point. He had been pecking away at the ref's sleeves during the confrontation with Cruyff, and with Cruyff disappearing down the tunnel, his persistence finally earned him a yellow card. Further insults then made the ref and, consequently, Stoichkov see red. With the club delegate and the physio trying to pull him away, the Bulgarian then decided to add injury to insult and stamped on Urizar's foot.

Sanchis, Butragueno and Michel combined to score the only goal of the game in the 55th minute and clinch the confidence-boosting first-ever win in the Nou Camp for the so-called "Vulture Brigade".

It was left to Stoichkov, banned for life for his part in the 1985 Bulgarian Cup Final, pardoned a year later and suspended for six weeks in 1988, to apologise for his "first and last" transgression. And Cruyff far from reprimanding the Bulgar bootman, told reporters that he fully understood his reaction.

Not surprising, perhaps, as the Dutchman, despite his priceless phrase "as you know, I rarely protest to referees" has now been sent off five times in Spain and during his playing career at Barcelona he was booked 22 times for protesting. Cruyff adds a new dimension to the concept of protesting one's innocence.

But Johan's side has been so dominant that many fans are already focussing on the surprise elements among the distant pursuers. At the beginning of the season, anybody picking out Logrones v Osasuna as one of the top matches in December would have been referred for psychiatric treatment. But only the blizzards which forced the game's postponement allowed Real Madrid to sneak above Logrones into second place and Atletico Madrid to nudge Osasuna out of the fourth berth.

Nudging

In money terms, neither club should be eating at high table. Both are run on an annual budget of £3.75m compared with Real Madrid's £25m and Barcelona's £31m. Only Oviedo, Cadiz and Castellon beat them in the shoestring league.

Osasuna, under the presidency of 66-year-old Fermin Ezcurra and coached by Pedro Maria Zabalza, have been nudging at the top bracket in recent years.

The real surprise is Logrones. Just over six years ago, the modest club from the capital of the Rioja wine-growing region was still in Division 2B, and first saw the light of day in the first division in 1987. Coach Javier Irureta took them into an all-time best seventh position, but was then dismissed when wine-tycoon Marcos Eguizabal took over the presidency.

Since then, Logrones have been the antithesis of Osasuna's stability. Players and coaches have come and gone in less time than it takes to say "Marcos Eguizabal", yet last season the club made history by finishing seventh under Jose Luis Romero. The ex-Barcelona coach then left accusing his president of knowing sweet F.A. about football and using the club as a platform for personal publicity.

Logrones certainly reflects the president's restless personality. At 72, he is still constantly on the move between his wine, property and catering interests in Logrono, Madrid, Jerez, Almeria and Malaga. And so are his players: 21 of the current 24-man squad have been at the club for less than two years. In the summer, 12 players left and 11 arrived. And Romero was replaced by David Vidal, 40, another journeyman who played for 11 clubs in 14 seasons. He was then assistant coach to Messrs. Milosevic, Paquito, Joanet, Cardo and Senekowitsch at Cadiz before taking over from the Austrian and, in turn, being replaced by Colin Addison towards the end of last season.

Cruyff: has added a new dimension to protests of innocence.

Vidal started back with an all-Spanish squad. Then came Romania's 34-year-old World Cup goalkeeper Silviu Lung from Steaua Bucharest. Then Uruguayan World Cup defender Nelson Gutierrez on loan from Verona. And an unknown Brazilian inside-forward, Cesar Grenzotto, alias Gilson, to provide touch play and spectacular free kicks.

Logrones started the season by earning three points in four games. They then took 15 from the following nine. The ligament injury which restricted Lung to five and a half games allowed Juan Canales, a 24-year-old on loan from Real Madrid, to keep a blank sheet for 615 minutes until conceding an early-December goal in Bilbao. This meant that the side who had conceded six goals in the opening five games had conceded one in the following eight.

Scoring

Nobody outside Logrono would acclaim the side as flagbearers for attacking football. By the time the blizzard struck, they had amassed 18 points while scoring just 11 goals.

"Defence is the top priority even for attackers," admits striker Rosagro. "Our duty is to shut down opponents and spaces. Afterwards, if we see the chance to counter-attack, we do what we can."

Vidal operates a 4-4-2 based on full-backs Cristobal and Lopez Perez with Herrero and Gutierrez in the centre, shielded by defensive midfielder Martin. Setien, 32, and Sarabia, 33, are the creative prompters alongside Gilson, and Vidal often finds no room for strikers Rosagro, Hurtado and Aguila, all on loan from Real Madrid. Eguizabal has proved to be an expert in picking up the big clubs' sweepings. No fewer than 10 of the current squad have been either bought or borrowed from Real Madrid or Barcelona. Sickening really. The main challenge to Barcelona and Real Madrid comes from ... Barcelona and Real Madrid reserves.

Knoflicek: his agent is claiming that the player owes him £125,000.

Ruben Paz ... Uruguyan international who has now joined Racing Avellaneda.

BAD DAY AT BOCA

BOCA JUNIORS have had one of those days – and how! It was a catalogue of disaster.

They were given a 400,000-dollar bill for back taxes, a sum they can ill afford.

They learned that striker Juan Gilberto Funes, due to sign for the club after a spell in Greece, could not continue playing because of a heart defect.

They lost 2-0 to River Plate, after starting the national championship with four successive wins and a draw.

And some of the 70,000 spectators, enraged by their team's poor showing, tried to set fire to the stadium. There were 140 arrests.

River Plate, the champions, had fielded weakened teams in several early-season fixtures while still engaged in the Libertadores Cup. But having been eliminated by Barcelona of Ecuador they turned their full attention to domestic matters and picked up nine points from six games to go top of the table.

A week later, however, they lost 2-1 at home to Rosario Central, who took over the leading place.

Independiente re-engaged their former coach, Omar Pastoriza, but did not win until their ninth match, 1-0 at Huracan.

The most curious record was set by Racing Club Avellaneda, who drew their first NINE games.

Racing have now signed the long-serving Uruguayan international Ruben Paz.

MENOTTI MAKES A POOR START

URUGUAY: Fans were getting impatient with Argentina's former World Cup winning coach, Cesar Menotti, after his first seven games in charge of Penarol produced only two points. The players had problems adapting to Menotti's style.

What made it worse was that traditional rivals Nacional were doing well, a point from the top. They beat Penarol 1-0 in the classic encounter, with veteran Venancio Ramos scoring.

Central Espanol led by a point, helped by outstanding displays from Brazilian international Paulo Silas, a target for Sporting Lisbon.

PERU: Alianza Lima's Brazilian coach Carlos Amaral, lambasted his players for not trying hard enough after they were beaten 2-1 by Universitario in the regional championship, in front of an unusually large crowd of 45,000.

The result enabled Deportivo Municipal, coached by Argentine-born and former Peruvian international goalkeeper Ramon Quiroga, to take a one-point lead over Alianza in the Metropolitan zone.

Sport Boys, who won the season's first tournament to grab one place in next year's Libertadores Cup, are third. They recently took on Brazilian coach Federico Rodriguez, and their Brazilian striker, Claudio Adao, is top scorer with 12 goals.

BOLIVIA: Boliva went through 11 games unbeaten and shared the lead with Oriente Petrolero in group A of the eight-team quarter-finals, but were claiming the points after a 2-0 defeat against Oriente Petrolero.

They claim that Oriente included an ineligible player – Luis Cristaldo, who was born in Argentina, but says he is a naturalised Bolivian.

He played for Bolivia in qualifying matches for this year's World Cup, but it now appears that he never completed naturalisation papers.

Luis Cristaldo ... at the centre of a Bolivian storm.

Cristaldo says he is Bolivian because his mother is, but Bolivar officials say they have papers to prove that she is Paraguayan.

PARAGUAY: Cerro Porteno won the title for the 21st time – second behind Olimpia's 32 – after 2-1 and 2-0 victories over Libertad in the finals.

Cerro eliminated Sportivo Luqueno in the semis, and Libertad knocked out defending champions Olimpia.

Veteran midfielder Juan Manuel Battaglia, striker Bunenaventura Ferreira, one of the season's leading scorers with 17 goals, and keeper Roberto "Gato" Fernandez were Cerro's stars.

COLOMBIA: America were comfortable leaders in the championship from which the top eight qualify for a final round.

Independiente Medellin were eight points behind in second place after a 14-game unbeaten run.

CHILE: Champions Colo Colo lost their unbeaten record in their 12th game and with it the leadership, to Universidad Catolica.

O'Higgins, who defeated Colo Colo to leave no team unbeaten, and Union Espanola round off the top four.

The same clubs also took the top places in the pre-season tournament.

NACIONAL GO FIVE CLEAR

ECUADOR: Nacional completed a 26-match unbeaten run before losing 1-0 to Deportivo Quito.

The policy of using only home-born players, under coach Carlos Sevilla, seems to be paying – Nacional topped the table after the second stage of the championship, five points ahead of promoted Universidad Catolica.

And Nacional's Ermen Benitez was top scorer, with 23.

The eight-team final round is split in two fours, with the top two from each going into the championship round.

The eight comprise four from Quito (Nacional, Deportivo, Universidad Catolica and LDU), Barcelona and Emelec from Guayaquil, Deportivo Cuenca, and Delfin from Manta.

Macara, who finished last, were badly hit by the refusal of residential permits for their three Colombians, Nestor Robles, Osvaldo Hurtado and James Velez.

One home defeat in 68 – so coach quits

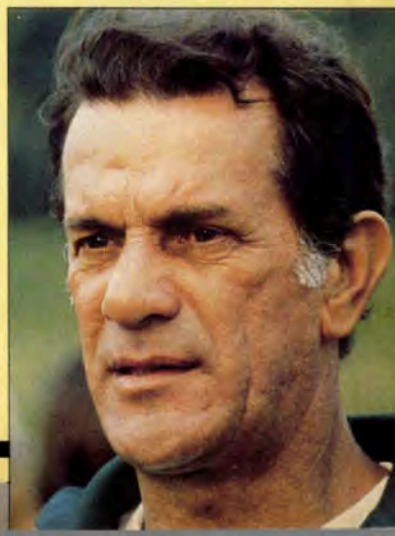
FORMER World Cup coach Tele Santana resigned from Sao Paulo after the club finished bottom of their group in the first stage of the national championship.

Santana (right) offered to go after a defeat by Bahia had ended the club's 68-match unbeaten run on their own ground.

Duda took over as Sao Paulo coach, for the third time. This is the 30th occasion the post has changed hands since the club's last championship, in 1976.

Rio's Botafogo also have changed coaches, with Joel Martins resigning and Valdir Espinosa returning. He coached them when they won the Rio title last year.

Atletico Minero and Gremio of Porto Alegre won the first-round groups of the national championships.



NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

BASILE TAKES OVER

BY ERIC WEIL

Diego Maradona ... getting the treatment from Jorginho of Brazil.

ARGENTINA PICK NEW NATIONAL TEAM COACH, BUT MARADONA CONFIRMS HE WILL NOT PLAY AGAIN

ALFIO BASILE has replaced Carlos Bilardo as Argentina's national team coach, but Diego Maradona is adamant that he is retiring from international soccer.

Maradona based his decision on his dispute with Argentine FA president Julio Grondona and FIFA president Joao Havelange. He said he would return to the national team only as coach – and only after fulfilling his dream of playing for Boca Juniors in Argentina again.

"How come Grondona is a FIFA vice-president and said nothing when we were cheated in the World Cup final?" Maradona asked, in reference to the decisive penalty.

Maradona also disagreed with Grondona's letter to Roma to thank them for attentions received, when "the truth was that the players were treated awfully".

But new national coach Basile is "a great guy" according to Diego. "He's someone to learn from. He'll make a terrific national team coach."

Roberto Rojas, Chile goalkeeper banned for life for feigning injury and getting the match against Brazil in last year's World Cup qualifying competition suspended, again asked for clemency.

He again admitted that he inflicted the injuries in accordance with a plot agreed before the game with captain Fernando Astengo and assistant trainer Alejandro Kock, to get the match replayed away from Rio's Maracana stadium.

Astengo (suspended for five years) and Kock deny the allegations. Rojas now works as a sports trainer for a state mineral company south of Santiago.

Juan Daniel Cardellino, the Uruguayan referee whose report of apparent death threats and bribery caused a Libertadores Cup tie to be replayed, has retired at 48, two years before the age limit.

Sources close to Cardellino, who refereed in two World Cup final series, said that the Libertadores Cup incidents influenced his decision.

Obdulio Varela, Uruguay's captain when they won the World Cup in 1950, had a noisy 73rd birthday in Montevideo.

THE team of 1950 ... the Uruguyans who surprised Brazil and won the World Cup.

Symbol

Hundreds of people with drums and whistles, accompanied by tooting motorists, congregated outside his house to wish him well and sing the traditional song.

Varela continues to be the symbol of Uruguay's traditional fighting spirit which has enabled them to overcome many rivals on the soccer field, and he is largely credited with that 2-1 victory.

Brazil were far the better team at the start and soon took the lead. Varela picked the ball out of the net and slowly walked towards a linesman with it under his arm, to complain about something. The linesman did not speak the same language and an interpreter was called.

Brazilian players tried to get the ball off Varela, but he held on tightly. By the time everything was sorted out and the game restarted, the Brazilians had lost their rhythm while the Uruguayans had calmed down ... and they went on to win.

Olimpia double

BY ERIC WEIL

TWO clubs named Olimpia could be facing each other for the next Inter-American Cup.

Paraquay's Olimpia won this year's South American club championship, for the Libertadores Cup, while the namesake from Honduras won through to the final round of the Central, North American and Caribbean (CONCACAF) club championship.

Under two Uruguayan coaches, Julio Gonzalez and Carlos Caceres, they won the Central American section of the competition for the fourth time and were due to meet North American zone winners, America of Mexico City, and the Caribbean section winners in the final round.

The winner of the trophy face the Libertadores Cup winners for the Inter-American Cup.

Paraguay's Olimpia also have a Uruguayan coach, Luis Cubillas.

Saprissa went all the way to retain the Costa Rican title. They won all four stages of the regular championship and the six-team final round, to take their 18th title since gaining promotion in 1949.

The club then left for a European tour – a rare occurrence for teams from that country.

With three games played in the Mexican First Division, only Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) had full points. They led group 2 while champions America of Mexico City topped group 1 with a point fewer.

Qualify

Next August will see the first CONCACAF Nations Cup finals to be played in Mexico under the same format as the European Nations Cup.

Two countries will qualify from each of the three regions -North America, Central America and the Caribbean islands – with the other two places going to the host country (Mexico) and the defending champions.

There will be no defending champions in the first tournament so the place will go to Costa Rica, who finished first in last year's regional World Cup qualifying tournament.

This finally brings CONCACAF in line with the other confederations comprising FIFA – Europe, South America, Africa and Asia.

Mexico, suspended by FIFA for the last World Cup, are grouped in the North American section with the US, Canada, Bahamas and Bermuda.

The next edition of the Pele Cup, the international veterans tournament, will be played outside Brazil for the first time – in Miami – early in the new year, with matches consisting of four 20 minute periods.

The South American Nations tournament for the America Cup, to be played in Chile next year, will be staged July 6 – 21 in Santiago, Valparaiso, Vina del Mar and perhaps Concepcion.

Dragoslav leads the coaching dance

BY CARLOS RAMIREZ

THE Dance of the Coaches started early this season – one aspect of an action-packed opening.

Former Yugoslav international Dragoslav Sekularac took over as coach at America of Mexico City and promptly caused a lot of resentment.

Players accustomed to easy training now have to do two sessions a day, and they are none too happy.

But the methods seem to be doing the trick. The team sailed through the Copa Mexico, used as a pre-season workout, won both legs of the semi-final, 4-1 and 2-0 against city rivals Cruz Azul, and will meet Universidad Guadalajara in the final in January.

Universidad beat Nexaca of Mexico City 2-0 and 2-1.

An Argentinian coach, Robert Puppo, who had a good season with modest Irapuato last year, has been recalled to replace Horacio Troche.

Puppo left when the club sold striker Jorge Gabrich to Veracruz without telling him, but has been persuaded to return.

Santos Laguna of Corona bought two more players from Honduras (they already had two) and then hired "Chelato" Herrera, who coached Honduras to a good performance during the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

Curiously the four Hondurans seemed to resent the coach's arrival, and after the first two games of the season had been lost, Herrera was released. One up for player power.

A Mexican, Jose Luis Estrada, has taken over.

Roberto Fleitas, a Uruguyan, had almost as short a spell as Herrera.

He joined UAT Correcaminos ("Roadrunners") but resigned after three games, all drawn, saying that he was ashamed to be associated with a team "who played without any ambition to win".

Former Mexican international Ignacio Jauregui, who took the Roadrunners to the play-offs last year, was recalled. Nobody seems to know why he was released in the first place.

Above: Herrera, who lasted only two games. Right: Hugo Sanchez.

BORJA'S BID IS BEATEN

BY CARLOS RAMIREZ

ENRIQUE BORJA, a former international centre-forward, has failed in his attempt to become president of the Mexico Football Federation.

Borja, who played in the 1966 World Cup in England, now works for television. He was beaten to the post by Francisco Ibarra, a businessman who represents the Atlas club of Guadalajara.

Nine of the ten board members come from provincial clubs. Secretary Victor Garcia is the only representative of the capital.

Qualification for the 1994 World Cup in the United States is the main priority for the group.

They have set up a technical commission to assist national coach Manuel Lapuente, headed by veteran Ignacio Trelles, now 74.

The new board is structured as follows: President: Francisco Ibarra (Atlas Guadalajara). First Division president: Enrique Zambrano (Universidad de Guadalajara). First Division vice-president: Emilio Maurer (Puebla).

Secretary: Victor Garcia (Cruz Azul). Under-secretary: Dionisio Fernandez (Santos Laguna). Treasurer: Francisco Gonzalez Paul (Guadalajara); Under-treasurer: Antonio Munoz (Irapuato).

Members of the advisory board: Alejandra De la Vega (Cobras), Roberto Zermeno (Leon), and Antonio Manon (Toluca).

The other coaching change is at Puebla, where Jorge Vieyra has taken over from Manuel Lapuente, now the national team boss.

Lapuente led Puebla to the championship last time: Vieyra twice took America to the title.

Morelia and the Pumas of UNAM (Universidad Autonoma de Mexico) were the outstanding teams in the first weeks of the championship.

Antonio Carbajal, the only man to play in the final stages of five World Cups, coaches Morelia, and has kept the team doing well despite the sale of several players.

Pumas, maintaining their reputation for producing fine young talent, took 13 points from their first seven games and averaged nearly three goals per match.

Hugo Sanchez, Rauly Servin, Miguel Espana, Miguel Negrete and Luis Flores are among the fine Pumas of the past.

Now Alberto Garcia Aspe, Luis Garcia, David Patino and Claudio Suarez are leading performers in another fine young squad maintaining the tradition.

The coach is a doctor, Miguel Mejia Baron, who played for the club in the 1970s. He has kept three veterans to give poise to the kids – Ricardo Ferreti, known as Tuca, a 35-year-old Brazilian; Miguel Angel Vera, 33, from Chile, and Miguel Espana, now 30.

What makes the Pumas perform so well? I would say "The old college spirit" – no longer present in so many professional teams.

Negrete: one of the fine Pumas of the past.

Borja: scoring for Mexico against France in the 1966 World Cup.

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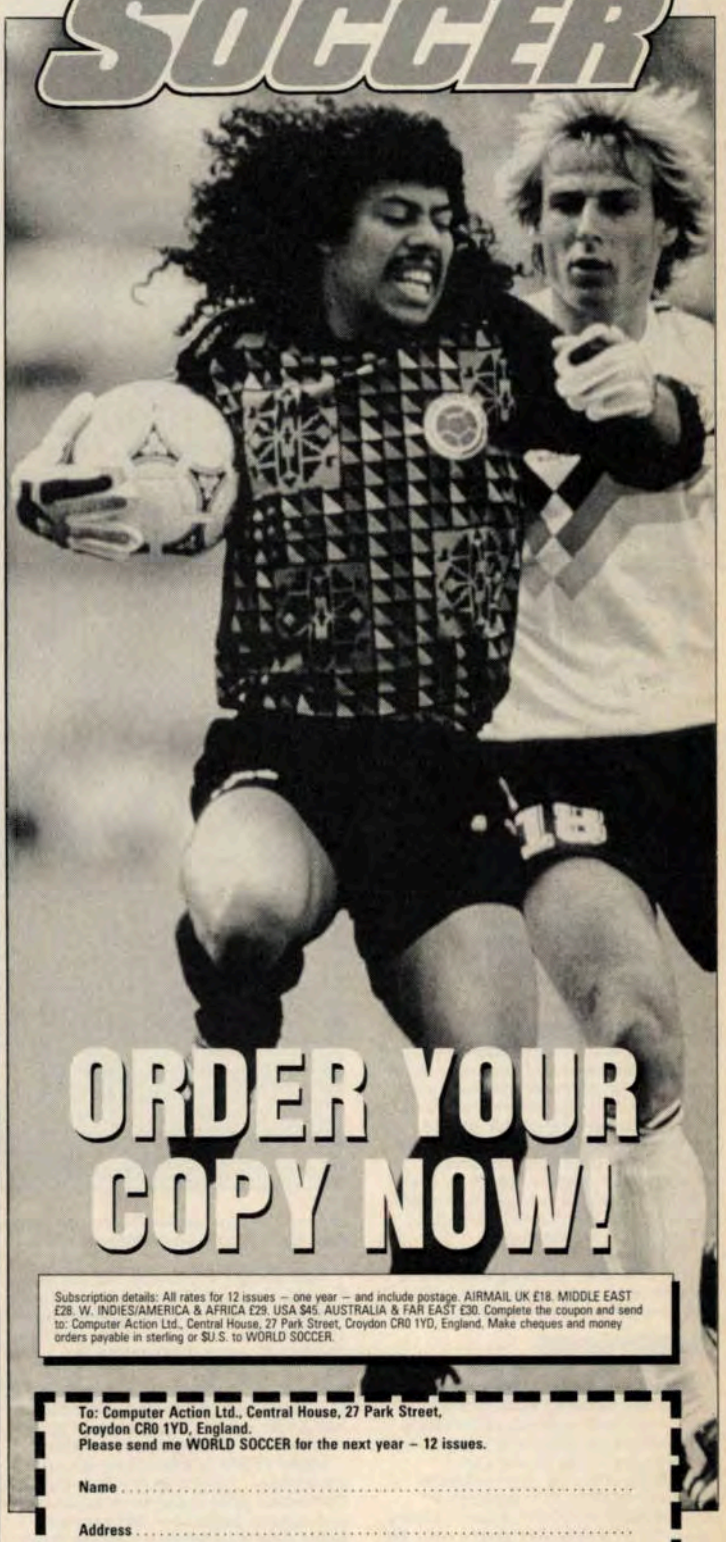

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PICK OF THE CROP

We name our African XI

BY MARK GLEESON

Musonda of Cameroon ... none too big but full of talent, as he showed in the World Cup.

Weah of Liberia ... his international future is in doubt after the revolution.

THIS year will go down as possibly the best yet for African soccer.

The performance of Cameroon at the World Cup, the professional running of the Nations Cup finals in Algeria, and the influx of African footballers into professional leagues in Europe are indicative of the ever-improving standards on the continent.

An African XI, chosen from the best players in Africa and Europe, would be able to hold their own against similar selections from other continents.

Predictably, most of the players are playing in Belgium, England, France and Portugal, but there are two from Cameroon's domestic league.

Here is World Soccer's African XI, with substitutes.

GOALKEEPER

Joseph-Antoine Bell (Bordeaux and Cameroon): Again his mouth caught up with him at the World Cup finals, where Bell's outspoken criticism of the tactics used by coach Valerie Nepomniachi saw him dropped and replaced by arch rivals Thomas N'Kono. Bell made it worse by then refusing to sit on the bench, but still came out of the World Cup much loved by his teammates.

The world did not get to see his talents, but Bell remains a top-class 'keeper with extensive experience and a charisma all of his own.

DEFENDERS

Stephen Tataw (Tonnerre Ysaounde and Cameroon): One of the two Cameroonians who chose to remain at home, despite numerous offers from Belgium and France. His strong play in the World Cup, especially when he was moved to full-back to fill in for suspended teammates, earns him a berth. Lanky player with a dynamic tackle, only 26, with a bright future.

Stephen Keshi (Anderlecht and Nigeria): Possibly the best player to come out of Nigeria. He has made a major impact with Anderlecht since moving from Lokeren. Keshie was in the side beaten in the Cup-Winners' Cup final by Sampdoria in May, but did not play for the Nigerian side who finished runners-up to Algeria in the Nations Cup.

Hani Ramzi (Neuchatel Xamax and Egypt): One of the revelations of the World Cup, with his strong heading and tackling. Still inexperienced at 20, but he had a good schooling at National SC, Egypt's leading club, before moving to Switzerland after the World Cup. A bit more beef could make him world class, because he is certainly not lacking in confidence.

Victor N'Dip (Canon Yaounde and Cameroon): Played as sweeper for Cameroon until suspension ruled him out against England in the quarter-finals. Some observers think he might have made a difference that night in Naples. Still 23, quiet-spoken and a loyal team member who is being groomed as the future captain.

MIDFIELDERS

Charles Musonda (Anderlecht and Zambia). Capped for the national team while still only 19, and then went to Anderlecht via Cercle Brugge. Also played in the Cup-Winners' Cup final against Sampdoria, but will want to put that experience behind him. Lacks a little in height, but makes up for it in skill. Missed Zambia's third place finish in the Nations Cup in March through club commitments.

Hagdi Abdel-Ghani (Beira Mar and Egypt). The kingpin of Egypt's performance at the World Cup finals and the scorer of the penalty against the Netherlands. In Portugal, Abdel-Ghani has become an established fixture. His move from Zamalek led to the recent mass exodus of Egyptian internationals to Europe.

Rabah Madjer (FC Porto and Algeria): Charismatic and polished player, whose volatility has restricted his chance of greatness.

Madjer can do it on the big stage, as he has shown in the 1982 World Cup finals and Porto's memorable European Cup final win over favourites Bayern Munich. His cheeky back-heeled goal will never be forgotten. The star of Algeria's triumph in the African Nations Cup final in March.

Cyrille Makanaky (Malaga and Cameroon): Only came alive in the latter stages of the World Cup, but showed enough to earn a place in the team ahead of team mate Louis M'Fede, who now also plays in the Spanish Second Division. Makanaky's style is stunning to watch, and he has the confidence from which greatness comes. Strange that Toulon of the French First Division let him go at the end of last season.

STRIKERS

George Weah (Monaco and Liberia): Last year's African Footballer of the Year and a regular in the French league. Did well in Monaco's European campaign in the early part of the year. Led Liberia to some memorable wins in 1989, but what is left of his international career after the civil war remains to be seen.

Roy Wegerle (QPR and South Africa): A controversial choice perhaps, but at this stage Wegerle is still South African despite his stated commitment to a future career with the United States and overtures from England's Graham Taylor. Played in the South African First Division at 16. Now at QPR, and South African officials are hoping he'll wait for the country's return to international soccer before deciding on his future.

SUBSTITUTES

Jacques Songo (Toulon and Cameroon): Great season so far, with hardly any goals conceded.

Francois Omam-Biyik (Rennes and Cameroon): Superb goal against Argentina to set the Cameroon circus rolling in Italy.

Souleymane Sane (Wattenscheid and Senegal): Among the leading goalscorers in the Bundesliga and a crowd favourite.

Andre Kana-Biyik (Le Havre and Cameroon): Hardly any chance to prove himself at Metz last season, but did so at the World Cup and now on loan.

Uche Ukechukwu (Brondby and Nigeria): Youthful star of Nigeria's final appearance in the Nations Cup final in March and now making waves with Brondby in European competition.

LIONS ROAR TO CUP SUCCESS

Lesotho, in the green strip, went out in the early stages of the tournament.

AFRICAN NOTEBOOK

BY MARK GLEESON

SUPERSTITION has always played a big part in African football and it got a major vote of confidence in December with the success of Nigerian club BCC Lions in the African Cup-Winners' cup.

Their emphatic 4-1 aggregate win over Tunisia's Club Africain in the final of the tournament was not only the first time a Nigerian club had won a continental club title in 13 years, it was also a case of third time lucky for the country in the Cup-Winners' cup.

The last two finals for the Nelson Mandela Trophy had seen Nigerian clubs end on the losing side, but this time the Lions went onto win, the result was never in doubt after the first leg in Lagos when two goals in the final five minutes saw Lions set Club Africain a massive task for the return in Tunis. This was rendered impossible within 37 minutes of the second leg when Angwe scored to put the west Africans 4-0 up on aggregate and effectively seal the title.

Only 5,000 turned out for the first leg which saw Lions lay the groundwork for their first major trophy success.

A 14th minute penalty by Alumun Aule was added to in a frantic last five minute frenzy when international Toyin Ayiunla and then Humphrey Jebba netted. To add to Club Africain's misery, Vaccouli was sent off and forced to sit out the return two weeks later.

It took the Tunisians until 15 minutes from time in the second leg before they could finally get on the scoresheet – Lofti Mhaissi scoring to make the second leg a 1-1 draw

Lions became only the third Nigerian side to win an African trophy – with all the country's success coming in the Cup-Winners' cup.

Shooting Stars were the winners back in 1976, with Enugu Rangers winning a year later. It has since taken 13 years for Africa's most populated country to achieve another win.

Two years ago Tunisian club CA Bizerte beat Ranchers Bees in the final and last year another Nigerian outfit were on the losing side when Bendel United were edged out by Al Merraikh of Sudan.

The Sudanese were knocked out at the semi-final stage this year, going down in a penalty shoot-out to Club Africain.

The surprise package of the tournament was the Mozambican club Grupo Desportivo, who reached the semi-finals and even led after the first leg against Lions.

But they were mercilessly crushed 6-1 in the return in Nigeria as Lions gave an indication of things to come.

Lions will defend their title next year and will be joined in the Cup-Winners' cup by Stationery Stores of Lagos, who won the Nigerian Cup final with a penalty shoot-out victory over Enugu Rangers in Lagos.

The two sides played four hours without scoring: drawing the first match after extra time and then doing the same in the replay.

Rangers lost when Emmanuale Okocha, taking his side's fifth penalty, hit a post.

lakivubo Villa of Uganda were 'efeated in a first-round replay.

1990 AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Anseboileau (Seychelles) v Pamba Sports (Tanzania) 0-5; 1-12
Grupo Desportivo (Mozambique)v Royal Lesotho Defence Force 2-0; 2-0
Liberte (Niger) v Tourbillon (Chad) 0-0; 1-2
Moneni Pirates (Swaziland) v Vital'O (Burundi) 0-0; 1-6

FIRST ROUND

Pamba Sports v BTM (Madagascar) 0-0; 1-2
Kenya Breweries v Nakivubo Villa (Uganda) 0-0; 2-1
Darryn Textiles (Zimbabwe) v Red Arrows (Zambia) 1-4; 0-1
Grupo Desportivo v Ferroviario (Angola) 0-1; 1-0 (Desportivo 5-3 pens)
El Merreikh (Sudan,holders) v El Suguar Tabary (Libya)3-0;
Suguar w/d.Tourbillon v Petrosports (Babon) 0-0; 0-2
Relizane (Algeria) v Club Africain (Tunisia) 1-4; 0-2
ASF Bobb Dioulasso(Burkina Faso) v MAS Fez (Morocco) 0-1;
0-2 US Ouakam (Senegal) v Tonnerre Yaounde (Cameroon) 2-0; 1-0.
Olympique Real (CAR) v Requins Atlantique (Benin) 1-0; 0-1 (Real 4-3 pens)
BCC Lions (Nigeria) v Entente Deux (Togo) 1-0; 1-1
Rayon Sports (Rwanda) v Diables Noirs (Congo) 1-0; 0-3
Real Bamako (Mali) v Hearts of Oak (Ghana) 1-2; 0-2.
Makona de Guekedou (Guinea) v AS Sotra (Cote d'Ivoire) 0-2; 0-2
Vital'Ov FC Kalamu (Zaire) 1-1; 1-1 (Vital'O 5-3 pens)
LPRC Oilers (Liberia) v East End Lions (Sierre Leone) 0-0; 0-1

SECOND ROUND

Kenya Breweries v BTM 1-1; 0-0
Grupo Desportivo v Red Arrows 3-2; 0-0
Petrosports v El Merreikh 2-0; 0-2 (El Merreikh 4-3 pens)
MAS Fez v Club Africain 1-0; 0-4
Requins Atlantique US Ouakam 0-0; 0-1
Diables Noirs v BCC Lions 2-0; 0-3
AS Sotra v Hearts of Oak 1-1; 1-2
East End Lions v Vital'O 0-0; 0-2

QUARTER FINALS

BTM v El Merreikh 0-0; 0-1
Grupo Desportivo v Vital'O 1-0; 1-2
Hearts of Oak v Club Africain 2-0; 0-2 (Club Africain won 6-5 pens)
US Ouakam v BCC Lions 0-1; 1-3

SEMI-FINALS

Grupo Desportivo v BCC Lions 2-1; 1-6
El Merreikh v Club Africain 1-0; 0-1 (Club Africain won 4-3 on pens)

FINAL

BCC Lions v Club Africain 3-0; 1-1

Windeschmann stops Italy's Giannini during the World Cup match in Rome.

Havelange ... spoke to an American audience in French.

WORLD

NEW YORK – We were promised, according to the invitation, "a major news conference signifying the kick-off to the 1994 World Cup."

What we got was a travesty. There was no major news, and the launching of World Cup'94 – something that surely should have been signalled with an explosion of excitement and enthusiasm – fizzled out in a welter of talk about marketing contracts.

Certainly the trappings of an important occasion were there – an elegant room in the swank Plaza Hotel, a solid row of television cameras, and lots of VIPS. FIFA president Joao Havelange gave a speech (in French), as did FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, and the United States Soccer Federation president Alan Rothenberg, and Organizing Committee biggies Scott LeTellier and Chuck Cale, and Klaus Hempel from marketing giant ISL.

They went on for nearly an hour. The audience, some two hundred people, about half of them (it was claimed) journalists, sat tamely listening. Mild chuckles were heard on two occasions.

For the rest of the time there was stupefied silence. In a soccer sense, the speakers had absolutely nothing new to say – unless you were a believer in the rumours that the World Cup was going to be whisked away from the United States. This ponderous gathering seemed to cancel that notion.

So where was the news in this "major news conference"? Well – try not to get too excited – it consisted of the fact that FIFA and ISL and the World Cup USA 1994 Organizing Committee have signed a joint marketing agreement.

In fact, the agreement was reached only shortly before the major news conference started. Which meant that printed announcements were not available until after the event. Just when we were wondering what all the fuss was about and why we had come, the press hand-outs arrived and told us that, far from attending the world's most boring press conference, we had actually witnessed history in the making. This was a "historic marketing agreement." In fact, it was a "creative, historic marketing agreement."

Partners

No doubt, this is a considerable achievement. It was problems over marketing that caused the downfall of the previous USSF president Werner Fricker. Fricker had insisted on using marketing partners of whom FIFA did not approve. ISL had accused those partners of trespassing into areas that rightly belonged to ISL.

The matter of boundaries in marketing is obviously important. People must know who has the rights to sell what, and where. But this squabble went on for two years, and it became increasingly difficult to see it as anything more dignified than a tug-of-war over the expected profits.

The marketing scene was further muddled by a lawsuit. When the marketing agency Telemundi, which had been involved in previous World Cups, was excluded from the 1994 tournament, it took legal action against both FIFA and ISL. It obtained a court injunction which prevented any sort of action on the marketing rights for 1994. That injunction was only lifted in April of this year.

All this manoeuvering blocked progress in deciding which cities should be the sites for 1994 games. Interested cities want to know – before they put up guarantees that could be as high as $100,000 – how they are going to make money during the World Cup. Most of the money-making opportunities will come from marketing, but nobody has yet been able to tell them just what they can and cannot do in that field.

These difficulties have now aparently been solved with the creative and historic formation of yet another group: a joint venture of ISL and World Cup USA 1994 to be called: World Cup'94 Marketing, Inc. Revenues from this group's activities will be split 50-50 between ISL and World Cup USA 1994.

It has to be said that this historic deal went over like the proverbial lead manure, at least in New York. The day after the great occasion, none of the three major New York newspapers carried a word about the conference. Imagine that – the launching of the World Cup, ignored by the press!

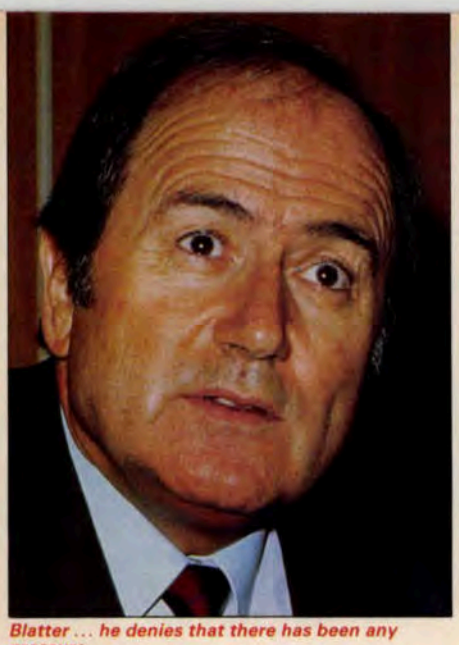
A disgraceful state of affairs. But one for which the Organizing Committee have only themselves to blame. However historic this deal is, it remains a marketing deal, and it belongs on the business pages. Though even as a business announcement, it flopped miserably. Not one of the speakers ever mentioned dollars!

It should not need saying that the announcement of a marketing deal is no way to kick off a World Cup. Especially in the United States. Because it merely confirms the view of the critics who believe that the US was chosen as the 1994 site simply because it provides the richest market-place for sponsors.

Inspection

Some snippets of World Cup information did leak out during the tedium. Mostly of the wait-and-see variety. There are now 32 cities (with a total of 37 stadiums) interested in staging games. Some time after May 1991, either 12 or eight cities will be recommended by the Organizing Committee, and a FIFA inspection party will arrive in September or October of that year to take a look at them. The sites decision will be made after that.

On the vexed matter of playing games in the New York area, there seemed to be a curious contradiction. After the conference, a local New York Spanish language paper reported in a banner headline that there would be no 1994 World Cup games in New York. Yet FIFA officials later told other journalists that the World Cup 94 Organizing Committee had been "instructed" to find a way of staging games in the immediate New York area. The journalists were made to understand that this did not mean the New Haven area of Connecticut. New Haven has submitted a joint bid with New York, with the idea of housing teams and



Blatter ... he denies that there has been any pressure.

Rothenberg ... new president with a huge job to sort out problems.

Fricker ... various marketing problems caused his downfall.

CUP FIASCO!

Confusion... chaos and marketing mayhem wreck '94 kick off

BY PAUL GARDNER

officials and fans in New York, and playing games in the Yale Bowl in New Haven.

It was also revealed that, as yet, there is no mascot or emblem, but that there will be, sometime next year. A major design firm is hard at work, but Scott LeTellier also let it be known that the mascot may not be a new creation – but that "existing characters" might be adapted, and that there might be a naming contest, similar to that held in Italy to name the famous Ciao mascot.

Casualty

The TV situation – barely touched upon at the conference – is as follows. It has been another casualty of the marketing squabble.

In December 1989, FIFA fixed a deal that had been set up with NBC because they were unhappy about the way it had been achieved. FIFA announced that there must be a public bidding process, and that is now scheduled to be held in the spring of 1991. (The deal covers only the rights for Canada and the USA. A deal covering TV rights in the rest of the world for the 1994 and 1998 World Cups was signed by FIFA in 1987 with the World Consortium of Broadcasting Unions).

NBC, soured by their previous experience, have announced that they are not interested in bidding, but there seems to be a feeling that they may change their mind. Other candidates are the other two major networks, ABC and CBS, plus the burgeoning Fox network (owned by Rupert Murdoch), and two cable operators: ESPN (the all-sports channel), and Ted Turner's TBS network.

Clearly, the TV arrangements are going to be different from those employed in any World Cup so far. Production of the host international signal, for instance. No American TV network is interested in performing this essential function. It has therefore been assigned to the EBU – the consortium of European TV companies. It is the EBU that will provide, for a fee, the technical experts to produce and direct the broadcasts and to run the International Broadcast Centre.

The money to pay for the EBU and to set up the IBC – estimated at between $10 and $12 million will come from the sale of the US television rights. The American organisers already have FIFA's permission to use that money to offset the costs of producing the host signal.

It is unlikely that the American public will see all 52 games live. At the moment, according to Scott LeTellier, the situation is that "at least 40 games" will be televised live on network and cable television.

Of course, the matter of rule changes came up. These days, it seems that any rule change that is proposed, suggested or even vaguely hinted at, is immediately ascribed to "pressure from American TV moguls", or to attempts to "make the game more attractive to Americans".

This is all very odd – because there is absolutely no evidence of such pressure. Sepp Blatter vehemently denies that there has been any pressure, and Scott LeTellier says he's not aware of such goings on. But the Europeans, and particularly the English, seem determined to look down on the Americans as know-nothing simpletons who must be spoon-fed a nursery version of soccer. These same simpletons are also seen as sinister and cunning plotters who can use the power of the dollar (surely not as almighty as it once was?) to twist and bend the sport in any way that they like.

Particularly to suit the marketing needs of the USA. It is this aspect that made the launching of World Cup 1994 such an unsatisfactory event. To emphasise the very aspect of World Cup 1994 that has come in for most criticism seems almost self-destructive.

In short, this "launching" has left World Cup 1994 still sitting on the launching pad but toppled slightly sideways. What the Organising Committee now have to do is to straighten things out, and have another, real launching. They will probably get away with duplicating the event – if only because nobody paid much attention to the first effort.

World Cup action ... America against the Czechs, who won 5-1 in Florence.

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BURLEY'S STILL BATTLING ON

BURLEY . . . having a header saved by Arsenal's Jennings in the 1978 FA Cup final, and as he is today as a Motherwell player.

BY ALAN FAIRLEY

ALTHOUGH George Burley was born and brought up in the Ayrshire town of Cumnock, only the past 18 months of his 19-year playing career have been spent in Scottish domestic football.

Burley joined Ipswich Town as a 15-year-old, spent 14 highly successful years at Portman Road, during which he obtained 11 caps for Scotland, then played for both Sunderland and Gillingham before signing for Motherwell in the summer of 1988.

"Although virtually all my football to date has been played in England, I've seen no reason to alter my style," says Burley.

"Basically the game is the same wherever you play, and the experience I gained in English football has helped me settle quickly in Scotland."

Bobby Robson first noted Burley's talents and helped nurture and develop his abilities, drafting him in at right-back in a Portman Road side including Mick Mills, John Wark, Brian Talbot and Paul Mariner, and regarded as one of the most successful and entertaining in the club's history.

"Bobby Robson was like a second father to me," says Burley. "He looked after me when I first went south and taught me virtually everything I know about football."

Burley won an FA Cup medal with Ipswich in 1978 but a broken leg caused him to miss the club's victory in the 1981 UEFA Cup final.

His comparatively modest collection of Scotland caps is largely due to the fact that his career peaks around the same time as those of Sandy Jardine and Danny McGrain.

Burley's pace and willingness to go forward were always features of his game and, despite his advancing years, he sees no reason to back-pedal.

"I've kept myself fit and I still like going forward," he says. "If that's the role I'm given by the club then I'll carry it out to the best of my ability.

"I'm 35 now, however, and I know that I can't go on playing for ever. Motherwell have given me an element of coaching responsibility which I'm enjoying and I see my long-term future in football management.

"I've obtained all the appropriate coaching qualifications and I've worked under some of the best managers in the game such as Bobby Robson at Ipswich, Lawrie McMenemy while I was with Sunderland, and Jock Stein with the Scotland squad.

"With that experience I'm confident in my ability to pursue a career as a manager."

HURLOCK . . . he appears to be made for Scottish football.

Europe finds the flaws again

DEPRESSION shrouded the country as all four Scottish representatives failed miserably in the second round of the European competitions.

Rangers, Aberdeen, Dundee United and Hearts gave such disappointing performances that there are severe doubts being cast as to the ability of Scottish teams to adapt from the abrasive style of football played in the Premier League to the more sophisticated environment of the European game.

Such doubts have led to calls for a rethink of the domestic structure, but encouraging crowd figures at league matches indicate that the status quo will be maintained for the time being.

Success at European level could be sacrificed in order to protect the extremely saleable domestic product presently on offer.

As is the case in many other countries Scottish football is rapidly falling within the control of commercialism and must, as a consequence, be prepared to conform.

Regardless of the Premier League's often tarnished reputation, the influx of players continues unabated.

One import now adapting particularly well is Terry Hurlock, the former Millwall midfielder, who joined Rangers at the beginning of the season. He appears made for Scottish football and his bone-jarring tackling ability has ensured his popularity among the Ibrox fans.

Criticisms of his robustness has been evident from certain quarters but his contribution has been publicly supported by two legendary names from the Scottish game. former Rangers captain Bobby Shearer and Willie Miller of Aberdeen.

Miller has now been forced to retire from competitive football after injury last year during an international against Norway.

He joined the Dons straight from school in 1972 and spent his entire playing career at Pittodrie, collecting numerous honours with the club and 65 caps for Scotland, plus a handsome cheque from a testimonial match ... in which he put through his own goal.

ALAN FAIRLEY

DIARY

World Soccer's global news service conducted by Keir Radnedge

OBITUARY

KARL AAGE HANSEN: Danish forward who starred in Italy in the early 1950s died in Copenhagen aged 69. Hansen played for AB Aalborg and made his Denmark debut in a 3-2 win over Sweden in Copenhagen in June 1943. He went on to score 17 goals in 22 internationals. In 1948 Hansen played a key role in Denmark's bronze medal success at the London Olympics. He then signed amateur forms for Huddersfield, scoring two goals in 15 games before moving onto Italy's Atalanta and turning professional. In one season he collected 18 goals in 37 games to earn a transfer to Juventus and form a championship-winning inside forward partnership with fellow Dane John Hansen (no relation). After three seasons in Turin Hansen moved on to Sampdoria for one season then three with Catania in Sicily before calling it a day in the second division at 35.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

KENYA: The East and Central African Confederation decides that next month's annual championship will be staged in Zanzibar.

PORTUGAL: Leaders Sporting lose their 100 per cent record as their 12th match of the season brings a 2-2 draw away to Chaves. Sporting now lead Porto by just one point.

WEST GERMANY: Second round cup replays see first division Fortuna Dusseldorf go down 1-0 to second division Blau-Weiss Berlin. Hamburg beat second division Hanover 2-1 and, in an all-first-division clash, Nurnberg lose 2-0 at home to Eintracht Frankfurt after extra time.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

ACTION: In the South American Supercup quarter-final first leg, Argentinos Juniors beat Nacional of Uruguay 2-1.

BRAZIL: Botafogo winger Vivinho is reported to have failed a dope test after a 1-1 draw against Atletico Mineiro in the national championship.

ENGLAND: Cameroon World Cup defender Stephen Tataw starts a trial with Brighton.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

ARGENTINA: New national boss Alfio Basile announces a training camp in February to prepare for the South American championship. Basile says he still hopes Maradona will think again about his international retirement.

BRAZIL: Sports Minister Zico proposes a ban on transfers abroad and the transformation of the clubs into limited companies.

SPAIN: A new dispute between Real Madrid and Barcelona, this time over the date for the domestic Supercup. Madrid want to play before the end of the year, Barcelona favour May 1 and May 7.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA suspend Milan's Dutch superstar Marco Van Basten for four matches as punishment for breaking Pascal Plovie's cheekbone in the Champions' Cup quarter-final return against Brugge in Belgium. Thus he will miss the November 29 Supercup return against Sampdoria, both legs of the quarter-final of the Champions' Cup and – should Milan qualify – the first leg of the semi-final.

WEST GERMANY: Koln beat St Pauli 2-0 thanks to goals from star newcomer Horst Heldt and Greiner. Bad news is a muscle strain for Poland forward Wojciech Rudy – Koln's fifth major casualty after Littbarski, Steiner, Sturm and Gotz ... Bayer Uerdingen claim to have signed Lausanne's Switzerland striker, Stephane Chapuisat.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

ACTION: Ethiopia lose 2-0 at home to Tunisia in an African Nations qualifier ... in Austria Tirol are held goalless at home by Admira ... Gent stay top in Belgium thanks to a 2-1 home win over Mechelen while Anderlecht maintain their revival with a 4-0 defeat of Waregem ... Real Madrid go down 2-1 away to Valencia ... Werder Bremen beat Karlsruhe 2-0 to stay top in West Germany.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

ACTION: An 83rd-minute header by Nicola Berti brings Inter a 1-0 victory over Milan in the San Siro derby in Italy. Toto Schillaci returns to form at last for Juventus with a hat-trick in their 5-0 thrashing of Roma ... Sporting maintain their lead in Portugal thanks to a 1-0 home win over Tirsense. Police in Faro fire tear gas to disperse rioting local fans after Farense lose to a last-minute goal against Porto ... Barcelona thrash Castellon 6-0 to stay out in front in Spain.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

FRANCE: Fraud squad officers take in Marseille stars Bernard Pardo, Bernard Casoni and Pascal Olmeta for questioning concerning the scandal at Toulon – for whom all three previously played. Also questioned are Bordeaux stars Joseph-Antoine Bell and Philippe Fargeon – also formerly with Toulon.

SPAIN: Real Madrid sack John Toshack. The defeat by Valencia on Saturday was the last straw.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA delay until April a decision on whether to lift the extended European ban on Liverpool. UEFA president Lennart Johansson criticises suggestions to change the laws of the game, such as increasing the size of goals. Bari emerges as venue for the Champions' Cup Final, Rotterdam for the Cup-Winners' Cup Final.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

DENMARK: The national team's long-admired unity begins to break down. Jan Bartram and the Laudrup brothers, Michael and Brian, say they do wish to play for the national team. Bartram, 28, says he wants to make way for younger players; Michael Laudrup says he has lost his enthusiasm for the game; Brian says he is quitting because he has no respect for national manager Richard Moller Nielsen.

EAST GERMANY: The 175 delegates to the East German federation, the DFV, vote unanimously to disband and make way for East Germany's soccer integration into the (West) German DFB. The delegates form themselves, instead, into a Nord-Ost regional association.

ETHIOPIA: The national team and its two-man managerial partnership are all sacked by the federartion in the wake of the 2-0 African Nations defeat by Tunisia.

FINLAND: National coach Jukka Vakkila calls up Kuusysi midfielder Jarmo Sastamoinen and RoPs striker Ari Tegelberg to replace injured Petri Jarvinen and Markku Kanerva in the squad for Sunday's European qualifier against Malta.

FRANCE: In a rearranged first division match, Montpellier beat Metz by 5-2 as the fraud squad inquiry spreads further into Marseille. General secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes, an aide of president Bernard Tapie, and financial director Alain Laroche are held for questioning. Files on player transfers are seized.
Ominously, investigating judge Jean-Pierre Zanotto says Bernes and Laroche are not being questioned in connection with the Toulon case but for matters relating strictly to Marseille.
Bordeaux general manager Didier Couecou is arrested and questioned regarding the Girondins finances investigation. Sports Minister Roger Bambuck warns: "The soccer file has been on my desk for more than a year and a half. I am determined to go all the way so that all the filth in French football will be wiped out."

Kieft ... back to Bordeaux.

HOLLAND: Wim Kieft, learning he will not be in Holland's starting line-up tomorrow against Greece, quits the national team training camp to return to Bordeaux.

ITALY: Milan appeal the four-game UEFA club ban imposed on Marco Van Basten after his Champions' Cup expulsion against Brugge ... a new Maradona row is in the making as the Argentine superstar refuses to travel with his Napoli team-mates to Florence for tomorrow's Italian cup tie against Fiorentina.
Maradona's personal trainer, Fernando Signorini, tells club officials by telephone in the morning that Maradona was still sleeping and had given orders that he should not be disturbed.

SPAIN: Alfredo Di Stefano emerges, after a meeting with president Ramon Mendoxa, as favourite to become Real Madrid's caretaker coach. Training meanwhile, is being supervised by former stars Ramon Moreno Grosso and Jose Antonio Camacho.

WEST GERMANY: Stuttgart sack Willi Entenmann as coach and appoint ex-Koln boss Christoph Daum in his place ... second division Osnabruck sign up United States striker Brent Goulet, formerly with English club Bournemouth ... Bayern Munich announce a record working profit in 1989-90 of £600,000.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ACTION: In the European championship Holland beat Greece 2-0 ... in European under-21 ties, Austria win 2-0 away to San Marino, Cyprus and Sweden draw 1-1 and Greece and Israel draw 2-2.

BELGIUM: The European Commission fires a warning shot across the bows of FIFA and UEFA when top official Marco Piccarolo insists that free movement of athletes will take effect, along with everyone else, from January 1, 1993.

CAMEROON: Soviet coach Valeri Nepomniachi says he is quitting as national coach on December 6, when his contract ends, because he has not been paid for months and because he received no bonus for the World Cup successes.

EAST GERMANY: Police in Leipzig arrest 29 youths when trouble breaks out near the venue for the formal soccer unification celebrations. DFB president Hermann Neuberger says: "There are mountains to clear away but we will make it."

FRANCE: Marseille and former Toulon stars Bernard Pardo and Bernard Casoni admit that they were paid around £65,000 each when they left Toulon, though they deny knowing the source of the money. Goalkeeper Pascal Olmeta, however, denies having received £130,000 on his 1988 transfer to Racing Paris. Toulon, meanwhile, are revealed as £9million in the red even though manager Roland Courbis had changed his Porsche for a Maserati just before his fraud squad arrest in October. Marseille president Bernard Tapie is away in Tokyo on business but vice-president Jean-Louis Levreau denies any mismanagement of funds and points out that Tapie has been a persistent critic of the French promotional agent, Jean-Claude Darmon. Jean Glavany, the Prime Minister's private secretary, denies suggestions that the ongoing scandal may jeopardise French chances of winning hosting rights to the 1998 World Cup finals ... Lille sign Denmark midfielder Per Frandsen from B1903.

ITALY: Napoli, without Maradona, force a goalless draw away to Fiorentina in the Italian Cup and qualify for the fourth round 2-1 on aggregate. Sampdoria, Milan, Juventus and Roma are other winners ... the aftermath of the stormy Juventus-Roma league match brings a three-game ban for sent-off Juve winger Paolo Di Canio and two-match suspensions on Juve defender Julio Cesar and Roma's Sebastiano Nela.

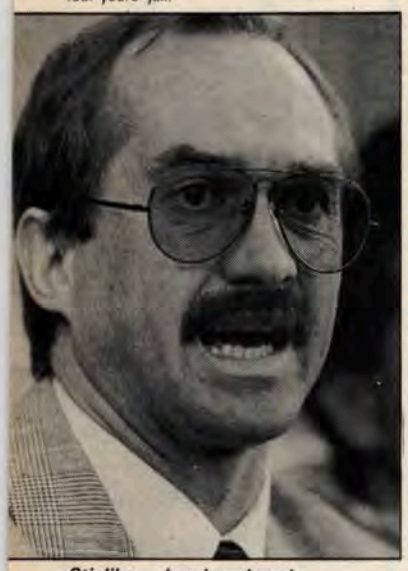
SPAIN: Alfredo Di Stefano is formally confirmed as Real Madrid caretaker while the club explores the possibility of 'lifting' Luis Aragones from Espanol.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

FRANCE: Bordeaux president Claude Bez is formally charged on several counts of fraud relating to club business. Also charged is his son, Eric, and businessman Jacques Rubio, who was a building contractor to the club. The charges centre on the £5million training centre contract awarded to firms controlled by Eric Bez and Rubio. Claude Bez is freed on a £100,000 bail surety, Eric Bez on a £50,000 surety. Another son, Pascal Bez, is freed without being charged.

ITALY: Struggling Bologna win 2-1 away to Modena (and 3-1 on aggregate) in the penultimate Italian cup third round tie. In the quarter-finals they face Napoli. Other ties: Juventus v Roma, Bari v Milan, Sampdoria v Inter or Torino.

PORTUGAL: The government, shocked by hooligan and player violence and corruption revelations, agrees to punish sports corruption with sentences of up to four years' jail.



Stielike ... ban is reduced.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA cut Swiss coach Uli Stielike's ban from three games to one – which he had already served during the San Marino match.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

EAST GERMANY: Dresden move up into second place thanks to a 2-0 home win over Lok Leipzig.

ENGLAND: Leeds decide to go through with a loan agreement for Bologna's cast-off Bulgaria sweeper, Niki Iliev.

FRANCE: Brest lose 2-1 at home to Monaco who thus move, temporarily at least, to within one point of leaders Marseille.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA cut Van Basten's club ban from four to three games.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

ACTION: Standard are held goalless at home by Brugge in Belgium ... multi-champions of East Germany, FC Berlin lose again – this time 1-0 away to Chemnitz – to stay rooted to the foot of the table ... in the scandal-scarred match of the day, Marseille win 1-0 away to Toulon thanks to a 67th-minute goal from Basile Boli ... in Holland PSV are surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Vitesse Arnhem ... Spanish leaders Barcelona win 1-0 away to Sevilla thanks to a late goal from veteran skipper Alesanco ... Kaiserslautern regain the West German leadership after beating Werder Bremen 1-0 in their top-of-the-table duel. Hooligan in trouble in Nuremberg sees the arrest of 141 youths before the game against Hertha.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

ACTION: In the European championship, Malta and Finland draw 1-1 in Valletta ... Panathinaikos beat AEK 2-1 to take the lead in Greece as Olympiakos are held 2-2 away to Ionikos ... in Italy leaders Sampdoria are surprisingly beaten 2-1 in the local derby by Genoa, for whom new Brazilian signing Branco cracks the winner from a free kick. Inter pull level with Sampdoria on points thanks to a 2-1 victory over Napoli ... Porto take over at the top in Portugal after beating previous leaders Sporting 2-0 ...
Spanish champions Real Madrid begin the third Di Stefano era (once previously as a player, once as coach) with a decisive 3-0 win over Betis.

ROMANIA: Dinamo midfielder Daniel Timofte threatens to seek asylum in Germany unless the club and federation ignore new transfer restrictions and ratify his prospective move to Bayer Uerdingen. Timofte's threat is strengthened by his wife's German family background.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

EAST GERMANY: Dresden beat Bayern Munich 1-0 in a unification friendly.

FAROE ISLANDS: European championship players Alan Morkore and Jan Dam fly to England for trials with Leeds.

FRANCE: Claude Bez resigns as president of Bordeaux. City mayor Jacques Chaban-Delmas announces that spectacles millionaire Alain Afflelou is to buy a controlling stake in the crisis-ridden former champions. League president Jean Sadoul proposes a string of reforms to try to control financial affairs within the French game, including a limit on players' "scandalous" earnings. He says: "I have been wrong. I am not very proud of it. I made mistakes."

ITALY: Maradona says in a radio interview that after six years playing in Italy he wants to quit Napoli "for a less stressful life." Bologna's highly-rated Hungarian, Lajos Detari, denies a string of reports that terms have already been agreed for him to replace Maradona at Napoli at the season's end.

NORWAY: Roy Wassberg, a 20-year-old midfielder, faces disciplinary action for signing contracts with two different first division clubs – Stromgodset and then Brann Berger – on successive days.

ROMANIA: Universotatea Craiova players threaten to strike for the next two rounds of the league programme unless the local university senate accedes to their demands for full autonomy. The players are furious that the £650,000 fee paid by PSV Eindhoven for Gheorghe Popescu has been syphoned off by the university authorities and that the club is late in paying wages.

SWITZERLAND: A UEFA transfer tribunal rules that Grasshoppers of Zurich are entitled to a fee of £1.4million (half of what they claimed) from Werder Bremen for the New Zealand World Cup forward Wynton Rufer.

WEST GERMANY: National manager Berti Vogts names five former East German internationals in a squad of 25 to prepare for a December 19 friendly against Switzerland – hastily arranged as a substitute for the cancelled Unification Match between the two Germanys. The five are Bundesliga-based Matthias Sammer, Ulf Kirsten, Thomas Doll and Andreas Thom plus goalkeeper Perry Brautigam from Carl Zeiss Jena. The latter is the only East-based player in the squad.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star fullback Slobodan Marovic arrives at Sunderland to talk over a possible transfer to the Roker Park club.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

WEST GERMANY: Bayer Uerdingen appoint former international striker Friedhelm 'Timo' Konietzka as new coach. Konietzka had been out of the game for the past two years, working for adidas since the last of a number of coaching appointments in Switzerland.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

ACTION: Top result in the UEFA Cup third round first leg ties is Brondby's 3-0 win over German former winners Bayer Leverkusen. More trouble for crisis club Bordeaux, who crash 5-0 to Roma with a hat-trick for Rudi Voller (see also FRANCE reference).

FRANCE: Alain Afflelou is formally voted in as new president of Bordeaux.

UNITED STATES: The World Cup is formally 'privatised' for the first time under an agreement concluded in New York between FIFA, their promotional and marketing agents ISL, and the US'94 organising committee company. Television coverage will be organised by the European Broadcasting Union, since no US station was interested in taking up full responsibility. Simultaneously FIFA Joao Havelange sets out details of changes in the qualifying system to open up opportunities for the third world, Africa in particular.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

ACTION: Milan beat Sampdoria 2-0 (3-1 overall) to win the European Supercup thanks to goals from Gullit and Rijkaard.

BRAZIL: Santos agree to sign Edinho – Pele's 20-year-old goalkeeper son.

ITALY: In a ghosted newspaper column Maradona says he wants to leave Napoli at the end of the season to transfer back to Argentina, "otherwise I might quit soccer altogether." His contract with Napoli runs to 1993 ... Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov is banned from the touchline for a month for shouting abuse at match officials and opposing players.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

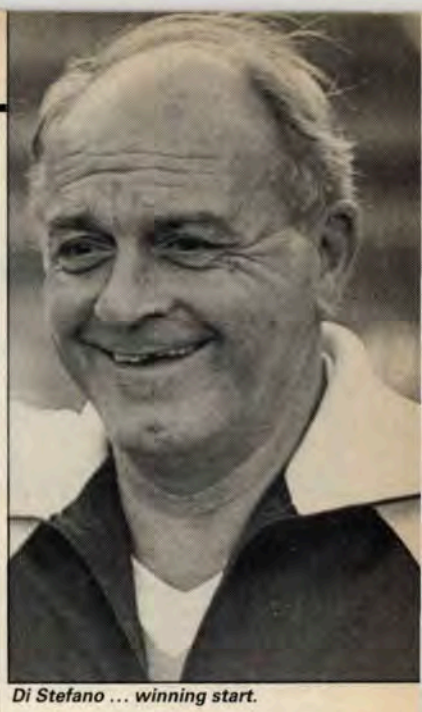
FRANCE: The federation proposes a rule change, to be voted at the March general assembly, that players and officials found to have accepted under-the-counter payments can be punished by sentences ranging from a one-year ban to life suspension.

ITALY: The Maradona show goes on. Now he says he has rejected big offers from other Italian clubs because "all I want now is peace and quiet."

MALTA: Malta defender John Buttigieg is released by English Third Division club Brentford.

ROMANIA: International defenders Iovan and Bumbescu are revealed as negotiating trials with English clubs Bournemouth and Brighton.

SOVIET UNION: The Soviet national side will play Bayern Munich on December 9 in a charity match with all funds going to food aid programmes in the USSR.



Di Stefano ... winning start.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

ACTION: FK Austria win 6-2 away to local neighbours First Vienna to remain two points behind leaders Tirol ... Belgian leaders Gent beat Cercle 3-0 with a Vandenbergh hat-trick but Anderlecht are held goalless at home by Mechelen ... in Spain Real Madrid win a second successive match under Di Stefano, this time winning 1-0 away to Valladolid. Hugo Sanchez collects his ninth goal of the season ... the big match in Turkey sees Galatasaray beat Fenerbahce 2-1 and maintain their three-point advantage over Besiktas ... a West German cup shock with Hamburg losing 2-1 at home to Wattenscheid.

BRAZIL: After a month of safety tests the Maracana stadium is reopened for football business. But engineers recommend that spectators should not use the first three rows of seats in the first tier of the now-160,000 capacity stadium until reinforcement work costing £250,000 has been carried out.
Inspections were ordered in mid-October after TV and radio commentators reported upper tier vibrations during a Botafogo-Flamengo match in front of an 80,000 crowd.

GREECE: Olympiakos, coached by Oleg Blokhin and starring Oleg Protasov and Yuri Savichev, announce the capture of a third Soviet star – midfielder Gennadi Litovchenko from Kiev. The fee is £2million.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

ACTION: The Brazilian championship quarter-finals are resolved. Bahia beat Bragantino 3-2 (4-3 overall), Gremio beat Palmeiras 2-0 (thus 2-1), Sao Paulo beat Santos (2-1 overall after a 1-1 second leg draw) and Corinthians beat Atletico Mineiro (2-1 after a 0-0 draw) ... French champions Marseille extend their lead to four points, beating Montpellier 2-0 while second-placed Auxerre are held 1-1 away to Bordeaux ... in Holland Ajax thrash Den Haag 5-0, with two goals each from Pettersson and Bergkamp, to remain one point behind leaders PSV with a game in hand ... away draws for Sampdoria (0-0 at Cagliari) and Inter (1-1 at Bari) allow Juventus (2-1 winners against Fiorentina) to pull level on points in a three-way tie at the top. Alessio scores both Juve goals ... Portuguese champions Porto concede their first draw of the season, being held 2-2 away to Benfica. Sporting pull level on points with Porto at the top thanks to a 1-0 win away to Farense – who finish with nine men after the expulsions of Hajry Redouane (26 min) and Manuel Pitico (65 min) ... goals from Eusebio and Goicoechea bring Barcelona a 2-1 home win over Mallorca

CONTINUED OVER

DIARY

World Soccer's global news service conducted by Keir Radnedge

CONTINUED

and keep them four points clear of Logrones and five ahead of Real Madrid. Logrones are held 1-1 at Bilbao whose Andrinua becomes the first man to beat Logrones keeper Juan Canales in 616 minutes ... in the United States, UCLA win the NCAA college title by defeating Rutgers in a penalty shoot-out after a three-hour final!

ENGLAND: Watford release American World Cup keeper Tony Meola, who has been unable to secure a first-team place with the struggling second division side.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

BRAZIL: Under threat of the resignation of coach Paolo Roberto Falcao, the CBF drop the ban on foreign-based players appearing for the national team. Only Napoli's Alemao remains excluded because of a public attack on CBF president Ricardo Teixeira. Falcao names a squad of 18 for a friendly against Mexico in Los Angeles on December 12: Sergio, Mauricio; Gil Baiano, Odair, Lira, Cassio, Paulao, Adilson, Marcio, Moacir, Eder Lopes, Edu, Careca (Palmeiras), Marquinho, Sorato, Gerson, Almir, Joao Santos.

ENGLAND: Sheffield Wednesday confirm a one-year contract for former US captain John Harkes ... Brighton grant a one-week trial to Finland international centre back Ari Heikkinen.

HOLLAND: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff is sought by a group of Dutch businessmen who want to invest £13million in a new Amsterdam club (hopefully to bear Cruyff's name and play in the prospective new national stadium).

ITALY: Milan fly out for the World Club Cup Final against Olimpia in Tokyo without two injured regulars – Carlo Ancelotti and Alberigo Evani. Both were injured at the weekend against Lecce, Ancelotti straining a thigh muscle and Evani tearing knee ligaments ... police ban 180 Roma fans from soccer stadia after sorting out troublemakers behind hooliganism at the weekend's Roma-Lazio derby.

SOVIET UNION: The most remarkable transfer yet is announced: Kiev goalkeeper Victor Chanov is to join Israeli club Maccabi Haifa. Chanov will be the top-name foreigner yet to join the Israeli league which opened its doors to foreigners for the first time only last season.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

ARGENTINA: New national manager Alfio Basile says Maradona is the only foreign-based player in his new squad to be announced shortly. This precludes an almost total clear-out of the World Cup finalists.

ENGLAND: Queen's Park Rangers take three foreigners on trial: Sweden's Roger Ljung, Poland's Janusz Gora and Denmark's Kent Hansen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

ACTION: Romania crush San Marino 6-0 in European group two ... in an under-21 friendly, England and Wales draw 0-0.

AUSTRIA: Wiener Sportclub goalkeeper Claus Reitmaier starts a trial in England with Blackburn.

HOLLAND: PSV officials say they hope Romario can recover from his latest leg problems through rest rather than an operation.

ITALY: The government announces an inquiry into the poor state of the pitches in the World Cup stadia of Milan, Rome, Turin and Genoa. Sports Minister Carlo Tognoli has demanded that a report be made public by December 20. The Milan city sports director, Augusto Castagna, says the Stadio Meazza pitch is so bad the city should build a new stadium. Many experts blame the roof built for the World Cup which restricts ventilation and light.

Romario ... has had further complications following the broken leg he sustained earlier in the year.

HOLLAND: A new threat to the career of PSV's Brazilian star, Romario. He pulls out of training complaining of leg pains. A further operation on the leg he broke early in the year would rule him out for the rest of the season.

ITALY: Napoli, in a sensational yet bizarre step, open legal action against Maradona seeking compensation against his personal company, Diarma Establishment, for the player's alleged professional misconduct. Maradona describes the move as "a stab in the back" and threatens to quit football even before the end of the season.

JAPAN: Milan arrive in Tokyo for the World Club Cup Final against Olimpia.

YUGOSLAVIA: Sunderland pull out of the proposed deal for Red Star defender Slobodan Marovic.

JAPAN: Olimpia arrive in Tokyo for the World Club showdown with Milan. Coach Luis Cubilla says: "I am confident that our technique is superior to their power."

SPAIN: Barcelona lose 1-0 at home to Real Madrid in the first leg of the Spanish Supercup. Michel scores the winner after 55 minutes. Barcelona finish with ten men. Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov is sent off in the 41st minute for dissent after being fouled by Chendo. Barsa coach Johan Cruyff is also shown the red card for continuing the argument.

SOCCER ON TV

EUROSPORT

Tue 1 Jan, 6pm, Spanish goals.
Thu 3 Jan, 10.15pm, Spanish goals.
Sun 6 Jan, 7pm, 1990 World Cup final, West Germany v Argentina.
Mon 7 Jan, 3.30pm, 1990 World Cup final.
Tue 8 Jan, 6pm, Spanish goals.
Tue 15 Jan, 6pm, Spanish goals.
Thu 17 Jan, 11.30pm, Spanish goals.
Tue 22 Jan, 6pm, Spanish goals.
Tue 29 Jan, 6pm, Spanish goals.

SCREENSPORT

Tue 1 Jan, 6pm, Spanish roundup.
Thu 3 Jan, 9.15pm, two Spanish matches.
Sun 6 Jan, 5.30am, Spanish roundup.
Mon 7 Jan, 7.30pm, Spanish roundup.
Tue 8 Jan, 1pm, Spanish roundup.
Thu 10 Jan, 9.15pm, two Spanish matches.
Sat 12 Jan, 9.15pm, Spanish roundup.
Mon 14 Jan, 7.30pm, Spanish roundup.
Wed 16 Jan, 00.30am and 9.30pm, Spanish roundup.
Thu 17 Jan, 9.00pm, two Spanish matches.
Sun 20 Jan, 2.30am, and 3.30pm, Spanish roundup.
Mon 21 Jan, 7.30pm, Spanish roundup.
Tue 22 Jan, midnight, Spanish roundup.
Thu 24 Jan, 9pm, two Spanish matches.
Mon 28 Jan, 7.30pm, two Spanish matches.

SKY ONE

Tue 22 Jan, 7.30pm, Zenith Data Systems Cup quarter-final (live).
Tue 29 Jan, 10pm, Leyland Daf Cup quarter-final.

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EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Week ending NOVEMBER 4

BELGIUM

Beerschot 2 (Talbut 36, 73pen),
Gent 3 (Verdeghem 16, Vandenbergh 47, Balenga 88). Att: 3,500.
Mechelen 2 (B Versavel 35, Severeyns 49),
Antwerp 2 (Lashaf 28, Lehnhoff 55). Att: 9,800.
Brugge 2 (Staelens 44, 86),
Germinal Ekeren 1 (Leys 49). Att: 8,000.
Charleroi 1 (Jacquemart 74),
Anderlecht 1 (Oliveira 79pen).
Att: 20,000.
Genk 0, Lierse 0. Att: 4,200.
Standard 1 (Molnar 10),
Kortrijk 0. Att: 12,000.
Waregem 1 (Makhid 77),
Liege 0. Att: 3,000.
RWD Molenbeek 2 (Wellens 43, 78),
St Truiden 2 (Van Kets 20, Driesen 48).
Att: 6,000.
Lokeren 2 (De Roover 82, Etim 88),
Cercle 0. Att: 3,000.

FRANCE

Nice 1 (Mazzuchetti 16),
Metz 2 (Calderon 12, Huysman 48). Att: 3,500.
Auxerre 3 (Cocard 15, 75, Scifo 72pen),
Lille 2 (Assadourian 24, Decroix 79).
Att: 12,000.
Montpellier 0, Caen 0. Att: 10,708.
Toulon 1 (Anziani 34pen),
Lyon 0. Att: 11,000.
St Etienne 1 (Tibeuf 68),
Monaco 0. Att: 16,000.
Rennes 2 (Omam Biyik 11, 90),
Bordeaux 1 (Vervoort 69). Att: 6,846.
Paris SG 0,
Cannes 0. Att: 15,000.
Nancy 2 (Tarasiewicz 5, Zavarov 88),
Marseille 0. Att: 26,500.
Sochaux 1 (Prat 33),
Nantes 1 (Robert 57). Att: 4,000.
Brest 0,
Toulouse 0. Att: 10,000.

GREECE

Aris 1, Athinaikos 2.
Ioannina 0, Panahaiki 0.
Doxa 2, Larissa 0.
Xanthi 2, Levadiakos 0.
Panathinaikos 1 (Tsifoutis 85),
Iraklis 0.
Panionios 1 (Mirtsekis 75),
Olympiakos 6 (Tsaluhidis 8, 36, 64, 89, Anastopulos (68, 72).
PAOK 0, OFI 0.
AEK 1, Serres 0.
Ionikos 1, Apollon 1.

HOLLAND

RKC 1 (Brard 86),
Den Haag 2 (Valk 3, Danen 67). Att: 3,100.
Heerenveen 1 (Van Dijk 26),
Ajax 4 (Van Dijk og 2, Wouters 22, Willems 73, Pettersson 86). Att: 12,500.
PSV 6 (Ellerman 15, 88, Snoi og 47, Vanenburg 50, Van der Gaag og 82, Bosman 89).
Sparta 1 (Helder 84). Att: 23,700.
MVV 2 (Henegouwen 4, Francois 88),
SVV 0. Att: 3,000.
NEC 0, Vitesse 2 (Van de Brom 65, Latuheru 88). Att: 9,500.
Utrecht 1 (Alflen 55),
Willem II 0. Att: 5,500.
Volendam 2 (Pastoor 3, Berghuis 40),
Fortuna 1 (Reijners 63). Att: 3,700.
Groningen 4 (Meijer 69, Djurovski 70, 85, Huizingh 83),
Twente 0. Att: 14,000.
Feyenoord 2 (Griga 8, Van der Laan 90pen,
Roda 1 (Groenendijk 28). Att: 12,500.

ITALY

No league matches

PORTUGAL

Belenenses 0, Guimaraes 1.
Estrela 5, Gil Vicente 2.
Famalicao 0, Sporting 1 (Gomes 34).
Setubal 2 (Jorge Ferreira 7, Nunes 71),
Benfica 0.
Uniao 2, Beira-Mar 2.
Salgueiros 1, Farense 0.
Boavista 5, Penafiel 0.
Braga 0, Porto 1 (Domingos 52).
Chaves 1, Tirsense 1.
Nacional 0, Maritimo 0.

SPAIN

Barcelona 0, Burgos 0. Att: 87,000.
Castellon 0, At Madrid 0. Att: 15,200.
Sevilla 1 (Zamorano 4),
Gijon 0. Att: 52,300.
Mallorca 1 (Pedraza 71),
Osasuna 1 (Cholo 8). Att: 12,300.
Zaragoza 1 (Mateut 4),
Bilbao 0. Att: 33,100.
Cadiz 1 (India Vazquez 89),
Tenerife 2 (Hierro 28pen, Rommel 37).
Att: 19,400.
Real Sociedad 1 (Fuentes 50),
Valladolid 1 (Fonseca 43). Att: 21,000.
Logrones 1 (Gilson 32),
Betis 0. Att: 14,600.
Oviedo 2 (Berto 34, Jankovic 63),
Valencia 1 (Roberto 88). Att: 13,500.
Real Madrid 2 (Butragueno 8, 72),
Espanol 1 (Gay 58). Att: 75,100.

WEST GERMANY

Cup: Leverkusen 0, Uerdingen 1;
Karlsruhe 0, Stuttgart 2;
Kaiserslautern 1, Koln 2;
Hertha 1, MSV 2; Furth 0, Saarbrucken 1;
Holden 0, Preussen Munster 4;
Werder Bremen 2, St Pauli 0;
Schalke 4, Eintracht Braunschweig 0;
Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Nurnberg 0 aet;
Fortuna 0, BW Berlin 0.

Week ending NOVEMBER 11

AUSTRIA

Admira 2 (Backer 48, E Ogris 67),
Krems 0. Att: 2,500.
St Polten 1 (Peintinger og 33),
Alpine 1 (Auffinger 53). Att: 3,500.
Vorwarts 3 (Pfister 45, Waldhor 74, Petrovic 79),
Vienna 0. Att: 3,500.
Wiener SC 2 (Willfurth og 5, Hochmaier 65),
Aus Salzburg 5 (Bierhoff 18, 84, Kurbasa 29, 65, Weber 61). Att: 4,000.
Sturm Graz 1 (Temm 75),
FK Austria 0. Att: 5,000.
Rapid 1 (Weber 16),
Tirol 2 (Hortnagl 65, Westerthaler 89).
Att: 12,000.

BELGIUM

Liege 2 (Beuckedlaers og 82),
RWD Molenbeek 0. Att: 6,500.
Gent 4 (Balenga 47, Viscaal 37, Vandenbergh 44, Dauwen 78),
Waregen 0. Att: 8,000.
Anderlecht 5 (Rutjes 14, 58, Nilis 67, 85, Van BAEKEL 88),
Standard 1 (Delangre 28). Att: 30,000.
Lierse 1 (Segers 65),
Club Brugge 1 (Booy 25). Att: 11,000.
Antwerp 0,
Lokeren 0. Att: 6,000.
St Truiden 0,
Mechelen 3 (B Versavel 36, Severeyns 75, Ingesson 87pen). Att: 12,000.
Kortrijk 1 (Bellenghien 16),
Beerschot 3 (Brylle 8, Prince Polley 70, Claessens 78). Att: 3,500.
Ekeren 1 (Daerden 75),
Charleroi 0. Att: 4,000.
Cercle 3 (Karacic 9, Weber 16, 67),
Racing Genk 1 (L Van der Elst 42pen).
Att: 2,000.

FRANCE

Nantes 1 (Robert 20pen),
Montpellier 1 (Baills 8). Att: 8,000.
Caen 1 (Rio 64), Lyon 0. Att: 8,000.
Metz 1 (Asanovic 20),
Auxerre 0. Att: 16,000.
Lille 0, Nice 0. Att: 4,500.
Bordeaux 0,
Toulon 1 (Pineda 80). Att: 15,000.
Marseille 4 (Waddle 34, Pardo 41, Pele 76, Boli 89),
Rennes 1 (Delamontagne 74). Att: 30,000.
Toulouse 2 (Marcico 5, Bastere 75),
Paris SG 1 (Susic 89). Att: 10,000.
Cannes 0, Brest 0. Att: 4,500.
Monaco 1 (Diaz 6), Sochaux 0. Att: 1,000.
Saint-Etienne 4 (Laurey 1, Kastendeuch 40, Tibeuf 53, 65),
Nancy 1 (Stephen 78). Att: 17,500.

GREECE

Apollon 4, PAOK 2.
Iraklis 4, Panionios 3.
Larisa 1, AEK 2.
Levadiakos 4, Aris 1.
OFI 0, Athinaikos 1.
Panahaiki 2, Ionikos 0.
Panseraikos 2, Xanthi 1.
Panathinaikos 3 (Antoniou 30, Warzycha 41, Saravakos 76pen),
Doxa Drama 0.
Olympiakos 3 (Savichev 44, 49, Pahaturidis 54), Ioannina 0.

HOLLAND

SVV Schiedam 0, PSV Eindhoven 1 (Koeman 66). Att: 8,505.
Sparta 2 (Spork 6, Van der Gag 58),
Heerenveen 1 (Decheiver 78). Att: 3,000.
Ajax 0, RKC 0. Att: 17,777.
Den Haag 3 (Otto 18, Valk 35, Danen 53),
Roda 1 (Blattler 9). Att: 8,500.
Groningen 1 (Roossien 76),
Feyenoord 1 (Kiprich 64). Att: 16,612.
Twente 0, Volendam 0. Att: 3,750.
Fortuna 0,
Utrecht 2 (Smolarek 39, De Kruijff 60).
Att: 5,500.
Willem II 2 (Van Geel 63, 84),
NEC Nijmegen 2 (Groekelen 15, Van der Linden 87). Att: 6,500.
Vitesse 1 (Linders og 36),
MVV Maastricht 1 (Lanckohr 89). Att: 6,200.

ITALY

Atalanta 0, Milan 2 (Van Basten 25, Massaro 76). Att: 40,000.
Bari 0, Napoli 0. Att: 28,000.
Bologna 0,
Juventus 1 (Baggio 66). Att: 40,000.
Cagliari 0, Lazio 1 (Festa og 61). Att: 34,000.
Fiorentina 2 (Nappi 6, Orlando 85),
Genoa 2 (Pacione 44, Skuhravy 90). Att: 26,000.
Inter 2 (Serena 3. Matthaus 38),
Parma 1 (Melli 89). Att: 42,000.
Roma 4 (Desideri 48, Voller 50, 55, Muzzi 82),
Cesena 1 (Ciocci 81). Att: 35,000.
Sampdoria 4 (Mikhailichenko 8, Mancini 46, Vialli 57, Branca 72),
Pisa 2 (Piovanelli 87, 89). Att: 30,000.
Torino 2 (Policano 35, Muller 44),
Lecce 0. Att: 32,000.

PORTUGAL

Gil Vicente 1, Uniao 1.
Porto 3 (Geraldao 12, Domingos 49, Kostadinov 82),
Chaves 1 (Vukovic 74).
Sporting 3 (Gomes 69, 88, Oceano 84),
Braga 0.
Beira-Mar 1, Nacional 0.
Benfica 1 (Rui Aguas 67), Famalicao 0.
Farense 2, Tirsense 0.
Guimaraes 0, Estrela 0.
Penafiel 1, Belenenses 0.
Salgueiros 2, Boavista 0.

SPAIN

No league fixtures

SWITZERLAND

Aarau 1, St Gallen 1.
Grasshoppers 0, Luzern 0.
Lausanne 1, Young Boys 4.
Lugano 3, Wettingen 1.
Xamax Neuchatel 0, Servette 0.
Sion 1, Zurich 0.

WEST GERMANY

Nurnberg 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Weber 63, Bein 65). Att: 14,900.
Bayern Munich 2 (Effenberg 70, Thon 89),
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Helmer 79, Wegmann 82, Povlsen 85). Att: 29,000.
Kaiserslautern 0,
Fortuna D'dorf 0. Att: 21,392.
Karlsruhe 3 (Glesius 23, Schutterle 55, Bogdan 78),
Bochum 2 (Famulla og 28, Legat 42).
Att: 8,000.
Stuttgart 0,
Werder Bremen 1 (Rufer 8). Att: 24,000.
St Pauli (Gronau 75), Borussia Mg 1 (Schneider 77). Att: 18.700.
Leverkusen 2 (Lesniak 35, Thom 68),
Koln 0. Att: 25,800.
Uerdingen 0, Hamburg 0. Att: 7,000.
Wattenscheid 3 (Hartmann 64, 85, Sane 87),
Hertha 1 (Unglaube 81). Att: 12,000.

Week ending NOVEMBER 18

AUSTRIA

Austria Salzburg 2 (Garger 37, Bierhoff 71),
Rapid 0. Att: 16,000.
Alpine 0, Sturm Graz 2 (Temm 19, Pegam 44). Att: 7,000.
Vienna 3 (Rotter 14pen, Heraf 80, Balzis 88),
St Polten 1 (Resch og 2). Att: 800.
Krems 0, Wiener SC 1 (Janeschitz 14).
Att: 800.
FK Austria 4 (Narbekovas 22, Marko 63, Frind 66, Pleva 86),
Vorwarts 1 (Brankovic 47). Att: 2,000.
Tirol 0, Admira 0. Att: 6,000.

BELGIUM

Midweek:

Standard 2 (Thans 44, Asselman 56),
Germinal Ekeren 2 (Schmoller 48, Snelders 89). Att: 10,000.
Beerschot 0,
Anderlecht 2 (Oliveira 37, Nilis 56). Att: 8,000.
Waregem 0, Kortrijk 0. Att: 5,500.
RWDM 1 (Verdegem og 29),
Gent 5 (Balenga 27, 63, Vandenbergh 55, 75, 84pen). Att: 6,000.
Mechelen 2 (Wilmots 2, Emmers 37),
FC Liege 0. Att: 7,400.
Lokeren 2 (Meszaros 38, Etim 88),
St Truiden 0. Att: 5,000.
Cercle 1 (Karacic 74pen),
Antwerp 1 (Lashaf 63). Att: 2,500.
Charleroi 1 (Ge'rard 37),
Lierse 1 (Flo 13). Att: 8,000.
Racing Genk 2 (Bucan 27, Arisvaldo 65),
Brugge 1 (Ceulemans 49). Att: 8,000.

Weekend:

Liege 2 (Boffin 5, Nijskens 73),
Lokeren 2 (Myyry 50, Samson 70). Att: 6,000.
Gent 2 (Vandenbergh 27, Daewen 68),
Mechelen 1 (B Versavel 35). Att: 14,000.
Anderlecht 4 (Oliveira 40, 57, Desloover og 47, Nilis 53),
Waregem 0. Att: 15,000.
Lierse 0, Standard 0. Att: 4,500.
Brugge 3 (F Van der Elst 8, Ceulemans 30, Booy 76),
Charleroi 0. Att: 7,000.
St Truiden 0, Cercle 1 (Weber 89). Att: 4,500.
Kortrijk 2 (Eikelboom 30, Ballenghien 59),
RWD 0. Att: 2,500.
Germinal Ekeren 2 (Brandts 1, Schmoller 4),
Beerschot 0. Att: 5,000.
Antwerp 6 (Lehnhoff 15, 83, Nico Brockaert 44, Van Rooy 57pen, 61pen, Emmerechts 85),
Genk 2 (Arisvaldo 14, Gyimesi 37pen).
Att: 4,300.

FRANCE

No league matches

GREECE

No league matches

HOLLAND

Sparta 0, MVV 0. Att: 3,500.

ITALY

Bologna 3 (Cabrini 6pen, Detari 16, Mariani 81),
Bari 0. Att: 20,269.
Cagliari 1 (Herrera 76),
Fiorentina 1 (Lacatus 13). Att: 19,275.
Genoa 0, Torino 0. Att: 33,356.
Juventus 5 (Schillaci 23, 29, 61, Aldair og 55, Baggio 89),
Roma 0. Att: 43,494.
Lazio 2 (Riedle 27, Saurini 82),
Atalanta 2 (Pasciullo 14, Nicolini 41.
Att: 48,035.
Lecce 2 (Mazinho 43, Virdis 49pen),
Cesena 0. Att: 8,989.
Milan 0, Inter 1 (Berti 85). Att: 83,803.
Napoli 1 (Incocciati 40),
Sampdoria 4 (Vialli 41, 60, Mancini 45, 90). Att: 57,013.
Pisa 0, Parma 2 (Melli 24, Ossio 75).
Att: 13,209.

PORTUGAL

Midweek:

Tirsense 1 (Eusebio 12),
Porto 2 (Geraldao 9, Domingos 52).
Chaves 2 (Filgueira 54, Gilberto 71),
Sporting 2 (Oceano 26, Gomes 28).
Boavista 2, Farense 0.
Braga 1 (Mladenov 44),
Benfica 3 (Pacheco 18, Rui Aguas 60, 85).
Belenenses 2, Salgueiros 0.
Famalicao 1, Maritimo 0.
Estrela 1, Penafiel 0.
Setubal 1, Beira Mar 1.
Uniao 0, Vit Guimaraes 0.
Nacional 2, Gil Vicente 1.

Weekend:

Boavista 1, Belenenses 0.
Salgueiros 2, Estrela Amadora 1.
Penafiel 3, Uniao 0.
Guimaraes 3, Nacional 1.
Gil Vicente 1, Setubal 0.
Beira Mar 1, Famalicao 0.
Maritimo 0, Braga 1.
Benfica 1 (Rui Afuas 68),
Chaves 0.
Sporting 1 (Leal 71), Tirsense 0.
Farense 0, Porto 1 (Paulo Pereira 89).

SPAIN

Barcelona 6 (Eusebio 15, Stoichkov 25, 43, 45, Bakero 75, Salinas 87),
Castellon 0. Att: 90,000.
At Madrid 1 (Manolo 35),
Sevilla 0. Att: 60,000.
Gijon 1 (Oscar 66), Mallorca 1 (Vulic 77pen). Att: 20,000.
Osasuna 1 (Ciganda 90),
Zaragoza 0. Att: 22,000.
Bilbao 1 (Luque 7), Cadiz 0. Att: 40,000.
Tenerife 2 (Estebaranz 25, Fernandez 67),
Real Sociedad 0. Att: 30,000.
Valladolid 0, Logrones 0. Att: 16,000.
Betis 1 (Urena 47),
Oviedo 1 (Carlos 56). Att: 30,000.
Valencia 2 (Penev 27, Roberto 41),
Real Madrid 1 (Hugo Sanchez 73). Att: 45,000.
Burgos 0, Espanol 0. Att: 12,000.

SWITZERLAND

Aarau 0, Grasshoppers 2.
Neuchatel 5, Lausanne 1.
St Gallen 0, Luzern 1.
Servette 3, Young Boys 0.
Sion 3, Lugano 0.
Zurich 2, Wettingen 4.

WEST GERMANY

Fortuna 2 (T Allofs 20, Kaiser 58),
Wattenscheid 1 (Kohr 57). Att: 10,500.
Borussia Dortmund 0,
Nurnberg 2 (Dittwar 67pen, Ochler 85).
Att: 34,000.
Koln 2 (Heldt 41, Greiner 45),
St Pauli 0. Att: 9,000.
Werder Bremen 2 (K Allofs 25, Rufer 60),
Karlsruhe 0. Att: 19,000.
Hertha 0, Bayern Munich 0. Att: 38,500.
Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Yeboah 22, Moller 29, Bein 65, Weber 86),
Uerdingen 0. Att: 12,000.
Hamburg 3 (Furtok 35, Doll 58, Nando 88),
Leverkusen 1 (Schreier 76). Att: 13,500.
Borussia Mg 2 (Max 41, Criens 53),
Stuttgart 0. Att: 13,000.
Bochum 0,
Kaiserslautern 2 (Stadler 55, Hoffmann 62). Att: 14,000.

Week ending NOVEMBER 25

AUSTRIA

Wiener SC 0,
Tirol 3 (Westerthaler 20, 56, 57). Att: 5,000.
FK Austria 0, Alpine 0. Att: 7,500.
Sturm Graz 4 (Kristensen 61, 68, Radojevic 72, 86),
Vienna 1 (Reinmayer 16). Att: 6,000.
Krems 0, Salzburg 1 (Willfurth 2). Att: 4,000.
Vorwarts 1 (Hochedlinger 25),
St Polten 3 (Weber 14, 80, Diaz 56). Att: 2,500.
Admira 0,
Rapid 2 (Keglevits 60, Kern 81). Att: 9,430.

BELGIUM

Beerschot 3 (Brylle 9, Prince Polley 20, 42),
Lierse 0. Att: 4,000.
Mechelen 3 (B Versavel 51, Severeyns 61, Eijkelkamp 88),
Kortrijk 2 (Eijkelboom 20, Tilman 39).
Att: 12,000.
Genk 1 (Van der Elst 43),
Charleroi 1 (Myyry 47). Att: 4,000.
Standard 0, Brugge 0. Att: 25,000.
Waregem 3 (Wijntekers og 27, Nakho 52, Karagiannis 69),
Germinal Ekeren 0. Att: 5,000.
RWD Molenbeek 1 (Wellens 17),
Anderlecht 2 (Degryse 59, Nilis 65). Att: 15,000.
Lokeren 1 (Meszaros 42),
Gent 1 (R Janssens 36, Balenga 89).
Att: 12,000.
Cercle 1 (De Buyzer 41),
Liege 1 (Malbasa 14). Att: 4,000.
Antwerp 2 (Krohm 46, 72),
St Truiden 2 (Nwosu 43, Van Ketz 88).
Att: 5,000.

FRANCE

Midweek:

Montpellier 5 (Baills 15, Xuereb 38, Blanc 57, 68pen, Subrijn 88),
Metz 2 (Calderano 18, Haon 54). Att: 11,440.

Weekend:

Lyon 2 (Cabanas 68, Bursac 86),
Lille 1 (Buisine 66). Att: 10,000.
Nice 0, Caen 0. Att: 4,500.
Auxerre 0, Nantes 2 (Fernier 61, 75).
Att: 10,000.
Montpellier 2 (Blanc 56pen, Garande 77),
Bordeaux 1 (Durand 13). Att: 15,000.
Toulon 0, Marseille 1 (Boli 67). Att: 16,000.
Rennes 2 (Omam Biyik 74, 82),
Toulouse 0. Att: 6,000.
Paris SG 4 (Vujovic 3, 43, Bravo 26, Susic 50),
St-Etienne 2 (Deguerville 70, Witschge 88). Att: 17,500.
Nancy 2 (Zavarov 56, 83),
Cannes 0. Att: 3,000.
Sochaux 1 (Caveglia 77pen), Metz 1 (Hinschberger 14). Att: 3,000.
Brest 1 (Bouquet 85),
Monaco 2 (Diaz 7, Sauzee 89pen). Att: 4,000.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

GREECE

Apollon 3, OFI 1.
Athinaikos 1, Levadiakos 0.
PAOK 4, Panahaiki 1.
Aris 0, Panseraikos 1.
Ionikos 2 (Tsiolis 7, Vovadjis 61).
Olympiakos 2 (Protasov 10, Nendidis 80).
Xanthi 6, Larissa 2.
Ioanninia 1, Iraklis 0.
AEK 1 (Patikas 35), Panathinaikos 2 (Warzycha 8, Saravakos 67).
Panionios 2, Doxa 1.

HOLLAND

Roda v Ajax pstpond.
RKC 4 (Luyten og 18, De Wijs 51, Brands 68, Boogers 78).
Sparta 2 (Vurens 17, 85). Att: 2,400.
Heerenveen 0,
SW Schiedam 1 (Ridderhof 85). Att: 6,200.
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Scheepers 75).
Vitesse 1 (Laamers 12). Att: 25,700.
MVV 3 (Vincent 44, 89, Francois 48).
Willem II 1 (Wolffs 43). Att: 3,200.
NEC Nijmegen 0,
Fortuna 2 (Linford 28, Reiners 88). Att: 2,500.
Utrecht 1 (Bijl 46), Twente 0. Att: 5,500.
Volendam 2 (Clayton 40, Steur 75).
Groningen 2 (Olde Riekerink 11, Holband 77). Att: 4,500.
Feyenoord 0,
Den Haag 2 (Otto 57, Danen 85). Att: 19,400.

ITALY

Midweek:

Cup, 3rd rnd, 2nd legs (agg):
Fiorentina 0, Napoli 0 (1-2);
Cremonese 2, Sampdoria 3 (2-3);
Pisa 1, Juventus 2 (3-5);
Lecce 2, Milan 2 (2-5);
Genoa 1, Roma 1 (1-3);
Bari 3, Atalanta 0 (3-1).

Weekend:

Atalanta 1 (Evair 38), Pisa 0. Att: 35,000.
Bari 2 (Soda 8, De Marchi og 31), Juventus 0. Att: 58,000.
Cesena 1 (Ciocci 34).
Lazio 1 (Gregucci 63). Att: 20,000.
Fiorentina 0, Lecce 0. Att: 25,000.
Inter 2 (Matthaus 52, Baroni og 66), Napoli 1 (Careca 54). Att: 45,000.
Parma 2 (Osio 47, Grun 89).
Cagliari 0. Att: 22,000.
Roma 4 (Berthold 27, Aldair 60, Desideri 88, Voller 89).
Bologna 1 (Poli 37). Att: 36,000.
Sampdoria 1 (Vialli 49), Genoa 2 (Eranio 27, Branco 73). Att: 42,000.
Torino 1 (Lentini 31),
Milan 1 (Maldini 89). Att: 40,000.

PORTUGAL

Belenenses 1, Farense 1.
Estrela Amadora 1, Boavista 0.
Uniao 2, Salgueiros 2.
Nacional 1, Penafiel 1.
Setubal 2, Guimaraes 3.
Famalicao 1, Gil Vicente 0.
Braga 2, Beira-Mar 1.
Chaves 3, Maritimo 1.
Tirsense 1, Benfica 3 (Ricardo 23, Valdo 67, Isaias 78).
Porto 2 (Geraldao 10, Jorge Couto 71), Sporting 0.

SPAIN

Castellon 0, Burgos 0. Att: 13,700.
Sevilla 0, Barcelona 1 (Alesanco 79). Att: 51,400.
Mallorca 1 (Claudio 30),
At Madrid 0. Att: 24,200.
Cadiz 1 (Jose 39),
Osasuna 1 (Cholo 47). Att: 9,300.
Real Sociedad 0,
Bilbao 1 (Luke 49). Att: 32,600.
Logrones 1 (Gilson 1),
Tenerife 0. Att: 17,400.
Oviedo 1 (Fermin 78),
Valladolid 0. Att: 17,200.
Real Madrid 3 (Butragueno 50, Michel 62pen, Ruben Bilbao og 77),
Betis 0. Att: 73,100.
Espanol 0, Valencia 0. Att: 31,500.
Zaragoza 4 (Pardeza 36, 61, 85, Mateut 43),
Gijon 0. Att: 21,300.

SWITZERLAND

Grasshoppers v Neuchatel pstpnd.
Lausanne 3, Sion 4.
Lugano v Aarau pstpnd.
Luzern v Servette pstpnd.
Wettingen 1, St Gallen 3.
Young Boys 5, Zurich 1.

WEST GERMANY

Bochum v Fortuna Dusseldorf pstpnd.
Nurnberg 1 (Turr 10),
Hertha 4 (Metschies og 39, Gries 47, 75, Unglaube 81). Att: 13,700.
Bayern Munich 7 (Effenberg 7, Bender 12, Wohlfarth 33, 78, Laudrup 53, 88, Kohler 61), Wattenscheid 0. Att: 19,000.
Kaiserslautern 1 (Hoffmann 8),
Werder Bremen 0. Att: 33,704.
Karlsruhe 3 (Hermann 15, Schutterle 16, Schmidt 51),
Borussia Mg 2 (Klinkert 53, Kastenmaier 78). Att: 15,000.
Stuttgart 3 (Kogl 54, Sammer 55, Allhower 63),
Koln 2 (Giske 38, Banach 49). Att: 35,000.
Leverkusen 2 (Foda 77, Herrlich 87),
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Seckler og 8, Moller 64). Att: 12,500.
Bayer Uerdingen 1 (Bartram 83pen),
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Rummenigge 49, Wegmann 80, Povlsen 88). Att: 10,200.

Week ending December 2

AUSTRIA

Rapid 5, Wiener SC 0.
Alpine 0, Vorwarts 0.
Vienna 2, FK Austria 6.
A Salzburg 1, Admira 1.
Tirol 4, Krems 0.
St Polten 2, Sturm Graz 2.

BELGIUM

FC Liege 1, Antwerp 1.
Gent 3, Cercle 0.
Anderlecht 0, Mechelen 0.
Lierse 2, Waregem 0.
Brugge 3, Beerschot 0.
Charleroi 2, Standard 0.
Genk 1, St Truiden 0.
Kortrijk 0, Lokeren 1.
Ekeren 2, RWDM 0.

FRANCE

Nantes 2 (Jakovljevic 19, Robert 70), Nice 2 (Bocande 36, Mege 58). Att: 4,000.
Metz 1 (Cartier 2),
Lyon 2 (Genesio 70, Ngotty 75). Att: 10,000.
Lille 1 (Fiard 89), Caen 0. Att: 3,500.
Bordeaux 1 (Fargeon 13),
Auxerre 1 (Scifo 52). Att: 20,000.
Marseille 2 (Boli 79, Pele 85),
Montpellier 0. Att: 42,500.
Toulouse 1 (Acosta 20),
Toulon 1 (Meyrieu 43). Att: 4,500.
Cannes 1 (Simba 51),
Rennes 0. Att: 4,000.
Monaco 2 (R Mendy 27, Sauzee 50),
Nancy 2 (Gava 62, Tarasiewicz 89). Att: 4,500.
Saint-Etienne 6 (Moravcik 15, E Mendy 37, 52, 76, Tibeuf 45, Cypien 88),
Brest 1 (Ginola 58). Att: 6,000.
Paris SG 0,
Sochaux 2 (Priou 17, Bazdarevic 75). Att: 10,000.

GREECE

Doxa Drama 3, Ioannina 0.
Iraklis 1, Ionikos 0.
Larissa 0, Aris 1.
Olympiakos 3 (Mitropulos 8, Protasov 42, Anastopulos 72pen),
PAOK 2 (Anastassiadis 75, Tursunidis 83).
OFI 2, Levadiakos 1.
Panahaiki 1, Apollon 3.
Panseraikos 0, Athinaikos 2.
Panionios 0, AEK 3.
Panathinaikos 6 (Kurbanas 36, Saravakos 44, Christodolou 65, Warzycha 74, 88, Vlahos 84), Xanthi 2 (Chalkidis 43, Carlos 84).

HOLLAND

SVV Schiedam 0.
RKC Walwijk 0. Att: 1,200.
Sparta 1 (Houtman 79),
Roda 1 (Trost 29). Att: 3,500.
Ajax 5 (Wouters 8, Pettersson 32, 89, Bergkamp 37, 81),
Den Haag 0. Att: 17,620.
Volendam 2 (Steau 39, Pastoor 59),
Feyenoord 2 (Fraser 11, Kiprich 59). Att: 5,000.
Groningen 2 (Huizingh 16, 89),
Utrecht 2 (Liesdek 16, Alflen 31). Att: 13,204.
Twente 5 (Mulder 11, Mrkela 42, Zwijnenberg 66, Rutten 88, Van Halst 89),
NEC Nijmegen 0. Att: 3,500.
Willem II 0,
PSV Eindhoven 2 (Bosman 15,Kalusha 79). Att: 11,500.
Vitesse 2 (Bos 51, Eijer 89),
Heerenveen 0. Att: 5,000.
Fortuna v MVV Maastricht pstpnd.

ITALY

Bari 1 (Macoppi 30),
Inter 1 (Serena 33). Att: 45,000.
Bologna 1 (Turkyilmaz 74),
Atalanta 1 (Stromberg 29). Att: 30,000.
Cagliari 0, Sampdoria 0. Att: 32,000.
Genoa 2 (Aguilera 21, Branco 38),
Parma 1 (Melli 46). Att: 35,000.
Juventus 2 (Alessio 25, 34),
Fiorentina 1 (Orlando 8). Att: 44,000.
Lazio 1 (Sosa 54),
Roma 1 (Voller 44). Att: 45,000.
Milan 1 (Rijkaard 85),
Lecce 0. Att: 60,000.
Napoli 2 (Maradona 80, Incocciati 89),
Torino 1 (Bresciani 84). Att: 55,000.
Pisa 3 (Piovanelli 36, Simeone 42, Padovano 83),
Cesena 2 (Ciocci 25, Silas 33). Att: 20,000.

PORTUGAL

Benfica 2 (Ricardo 11, Rui Aguas 68),
Porto 2 (Domingos 57, Kostadinov 72).
Beira Mar 2, Chaves 1.
Belenenses 2, Estrela 1.
Boavista 1, Uniao 1.
Farense 0, Sporting 1 (Joao Luis 77).
Gil Vicente 0, Braga 0.
Guimaraes 0, Famalicao 1.
Maritimo 2, Tirsense 2.
Penafiel 2, Setubal 1.
Salgueiros 1, Nacional 1.

ALBANIA

Flamutari	14	10	3	1	21	5	23
Partizani	14	7	6	1	23	13	20
Dinamo	14	7	5	2	26	11	19
Apolonia	14	7	4	3	19	9	18
Vllaznia	14	6	5	3	21	17	17
Tomori	14	4	7	3	22	17	15
17 Nentori	14	5	4	5	19	17	14
Skenderbeu	14	3	6	5	18	19	12
Luftetari	14	4	3	7	13	20	11
Labinoti	14	3	5	6	7	14	11
Traktori	14	2	6	6	8	18	10
Kastrioti	14	2	6	6	11	27	10
Lokomotiva	14	1	6	7	7	16	8
Besa Kavaja	14	1	6	7	8	20	8

AUSTRIA

Tirol	22	13	6	3	49	18	32
FK Austria	22	12	6	4	48	21	30
Rapid	22	13	3	6	47	21	29
Sturm Graz	22	11	5	6	42	25	27
A Salzburg	22	12	2	8	38	28	26
Vorwaerts	22	8	6	8	32	33	22
Alpine	22	6	9	7	25	33	21
Admira W.	22	6	7	9	17	29	19
Wiener SC	22	7	3	12	25	42	17
Vienna	22	6	5	11	29	48	17
Krems SC	22	3	7	12	18	40	13
St Polten	22	3	5	14	18	50	11

BELGIUM

Gent	16	12	4	0	39	14	28
Anderlecht	16	10	4	2	41	11	24
Club Brugge	16	9	5	2	25	13	23
Mechelen	16	8	5	3	30	17	21
Standard	16	7	7	2	25	17	21
Lokeren	16	7	4	5	22	16	18
Antwerp	16	5	8	3	29	21	18
Ekeren	16	6	5	5	25	23	17
Charleroi	16	4	7	5	18	18	15
Cercle	16	5	4	7	19	26	14
FC Liege	16	4	6	6	19	28	14
Waregem	16	4	4	8	15	26	12
Genk	16	4	4	8	14	35	12
Lierse	16	3	6	7	10	20	12
Beerschot	16	4	3	9	22	36	11
Kortrijk	16	4	2	10	18	30	10
RWDM	16	3	3	10	16	30	9
St Truiden	16	2	5	9	12	27	9

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Slovan Brat.	14	8	3	3	26	12	19
Union Cheb	14	7	4	3	24	13	18
S.Prague	14	6	5	3	26	19	17
DAC Streda	14	5	7	2	22	20	17
Dukla B.	14	6	4	4	19	16	16
Tatran	14	5	4	5	15	17	14
Inter Brat.	14	6	2	6	15	20	14
Banik O	14	6	1	7	21	18	13
B. Prague	14	5	3	6	19	19	13
Vitkovice	14	6	1	7	25	27	13
Dukla P.	14	6	1	7	15	27	13
Sigma	14	5	2	7	25	18	12
FC Nitra	14	5	2	7	18	17	12
Spartak H.	14	3	5	6	12	22	11
Zbrojovka	14	1	3	10	8	29	5

ENGLAND

Liverpool	16	13	2	1	34	12	41
Arsenal	17	11	6	0	33	9	41
Crystal Pal.	17	9	6	2	26	17	33
Tottenham	17	8	6	3	31	19	30
Leeds	17	8	6	3	28	17	30
Man. City	16	6	8	2	26	22	26
Chelsea	17	7	5	5	30	30	26
Wimbledon	17	6	7	4	27	23	25
Man United	17	7	5	5	23	20	25
Norwich	17	7	2	8	23	28	23
Nott'm Forest	16	5	6	5	22	22	21
Luton	17	5	5	7	19	27	20
Aston Villa	16	4	6	6	17	18	18
Southampton	17	4	4	9	22	32	16
Derby	16	4	4	8	16	28	16
Everton	17	3	6	8	19	23	15
Sunderland	17	3	6	8	20	26	15
Coventry	17	3	5	9	15	22	14
QPR	17	3	3	11	21	34	12
Sheff United	16	0	4	12	7	30	4

FRANCE

Marseille	18	13	2	3	33	14	28
Auxerre	18	9	6	3	27	16	24
Monaco	18	9	6	3	23	16	24
Metz	18	7	6	5	25	21	20
Nantes	18	6	8	4	22	20	20
Montpellier	18	7	5	6	32	21	19
Lyon	18	7	5	6	16	18	19
Caen	18	6	6	6	18	17	18
Lille	18	5	8	5	18	19	18
Brest	18	5	7	6	23	20	17
Paris S G	18	6	5	7	26	27	17
Bordeaux	18	5	6	7	18	18	16
St Etienne	18	6	4	8	21	23	16
Toulon	18	5	6	7	15	18	16
Toulouse	18	4	8	6	13	18	16
Nancy	18	6	4	8	19	33	16
Sochaux	18	4	7	7	13	16	15
Cannes	18	4	7	7	10	15	15
Nice	18	2	9	7	13	19	13
Rennes	18	4	5	9	11	27	13

GREECE

Panathinaikos	9	6	3	0	20	5	15
Olympiakos	9	5	4	0	21	8	14
Athinaikos	9	6	1	2	14	6	13
AEK	9	5	1	3	17	6	11
Panserraikos	9	4	3	2	10	7	11
OFI Crete	9	5	1	3	8	6	11
Apollon	9	4	2	3	14	12	10
Iraklis	9	4	2	3	9	7	10
PAOK	9	5	1	3	17	12	8
Aris	9	3	2	4	9	11	8
Panachaiki	9	2	4	3	6	9	8
Panionios	9	3	2	4	11	18	8
Xanthi	9	3	1	5	14	20	7
PAS ioannina	9	2	3	4	4	12	7
Doxa Drama	9	3	0	6	12	21	6
Levadiakos	9	3	0	6	9	16	6
Ionikos	9	1	3	5	7	16	5
Larissa	9	0	1	8	5	18	1

HOLLAND

PSV Eindoven.	13	9	3	1	34	9	21
Ajax Amsterdam	12	8	4	0	33	8	20
Groningen	13	5	7	1	25	15	17
Den Haag	13	7	2	4	22	19	16
Vitesse	13	5	5	3	17	10	15
Fortuna	13	5	5	3	16	13	15
Feyenoord	13	3	7	3	21	15	13
FC Twente	13	4	4	5	14	15	12
RKC Waalwijk	13	4	4	5	16	18	12
Volendam	13	4	4	5	18	21	12
Utrecht	13	5	2	6	12	19	12
Sparta	13	3	6	4	19	28	12
Willem II	13	4	3	6	20	22	11
SVV Schiedam	13	3	5	5	6	11	11
Roda	12	4	2	6	16	21	10
NEC Nijmegen	13	2	6	5	11	25	10
MVV Maastricht	13	3	3	7	15	28	9
Heerenvenn	13	1	2	10	12	30	4

ITALY

Sampdoria	11	6	4	1	17	7	16
Juventus	11	6	4	1	17	8	16
Inter	11	7	2	2	21	14	16
Milan	11	6	3	2	12	6	15
Parma	11	5	3	3	15	11	13
Torino	11	4	4	3	12	9	12
Lazio	11	2	8	1	10	8	12
Genoa	11	3	6	2	10	10	12
Roma	11	5	1	5	19	16	11
Atalanta	11	3	5	3	12	15	11
Bari	11	3	4	4	14	15	10
Napoli	11	3	4	4	10	13	10
Pisa	11	4	1	6	15	21	9
Fiorentina	11	2	4	5	14	16	8
Cesena	11	2	4	5	12	17	8
Lecce	11	2	4	5	3	11	8
Bologna	11	2	2	7	8	14	6
Cagliari	11	1	3	7	5	15	5

LUXEMBOURG

Union	13	10	2	1	35	9	22
Avenir B.	13	7	3	3	34	18	17
Jeunesse	13	6	5	2	25	17	17
Grevenmacher	13	8	0	5	24	19	16
Spora	13	7	1	5	24	24	15
Red Boys	13	7	0	6	18	21	14
Swift	13	4	5	4	27	22	13
Fola	13	4	0	9	10	27	8
Progres	13	2	3	8	15	31	7
Aris B	13	0	1	12	4	28	1

NORTHERN IRELAND

Portadown	11	11	0	0	25	6	33
Glentoran	12	9	1	2	20	11	28
Bangor	12	8	2	2	19	10	26
Cliftonville	12	7	1	4	30	18	22
Glenavon	11	7	1	3	24	15	22
Newry Town	12	6	2	4	21	19	20
Linfield	12	5	4	3	19	18	19
Crusaders	12	4	4	4	19	22	16
Distillery	12	4	2	6	21	23	14
Omagh Town	12	4	1	7	19	21	13
Ards	11	3	3	5	16	18	12
Ballymena	11	3	3	5	10	17	12
Carrick R.	12	2	2	8	15	24	8
Larne	12	2	2	9	13	24	8
Ballyclare	12	2	2	8	13	25	8
Coleraine	12	1	2	9	16	30	5

PORTUGAL

Porto	15	13	1	1	30	9	27
Sporting	15	13	1	1	32	8	27
Benfica	15	12	2	1	32	7	26
Beira Mar	15	6	7	2	21	14	19
Boavista	15	7	3	5	17	15	17
Guimaraes	15	6	5	4	15	12	17
Gil Vicente	15	5	5	5	14	16	15
Maritimo	16	5	4	7	17	20	14
Uniao	15	4	6	5	15	21	14
Salgueiros	15	5	4	6	15	21	14
Amadora	15	5	3	7	18	21	13
Nacional	15	3	7	5	11	17	13
Famalicao	15	5	3	7	12	14	13
Farense	16	5	2	9	12	18	12
Penafiel	15	5	2	8	15	27	12
Tirsense	15	3	6	6	13	18	12
Chaves	15	2	6	7	16	23	10
Setubal	15	2	5	8	13	20	9
Braga	15	3	3	9	11	22	9
Belenenses	15	4	1	10	10	16	9

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

St Patrick	16	9	6	1	24	8	24
Cork City	16	8	8	0	15	4	24
Dundalk	15	9	4	2	24	10	22
Shelbourne	16	9	3	4	35	12	21
Sligo Rovers	16	8	4	4	19	11	20
Shamrock R.	16	6	5	5	24	20	17
Derry City	16	5	6	5	22	12	16
Galway	16	7	0	9	17	26	14
Bohemians	16	4	3	9	13	21	11
Athlone Tn.	16	2	5	9	8	26	9
Waterford	16	2	2	12	9	33	6
Limerick	15	2	2	11	7	36	6

SPAIN

Barcelona	13	10	2	1	26	9	22
Logrones	13	7	4	2	11	7	18
Real Madrid	13	7	3	3	18	10	17
Osasuna	13	6	5	2	16	11	17
Sevilla	13	7	2	4	16	8	16
At.Madrid	13	5	6	2	16	10	16
Burgos	13	4	6	3	11	6	14
At.Bilbao	13	6	2	5	14	16	14
Oviedo	13	5	4	4	12	18	14
Espanol	13	4	5	4	14	10	13
Gijon	13	4	4	5	18	17	12
Castellon	13	3	6	4	11	13	12
Zaragoza	13	4	3	6	14	16	11
Valencia	13	4	3	6	11	14	11
Mallorca	13	4	3	6	13	18	11
R.Sociedad	13	3	4	6	10	15	10
Tenerife	13	4	2	7	10	20	10
Valladolid	13	1	7	5	9	13	9
Cadiz	13	1	4	8	10	17	7
Betis	13	1	4	8	12	24	6

SCOTLAND

Rangers	17	11	4	2	37	11	26
Aberdeen	17	8	7	2	27	15	23
Dundee Utd	17	9	5	2	24	13	23
St Johnstone	17	7	5	5	24	23	19
Celtic	17	6	4	7	22	22	16
Motherwell	17	4	5	8	21	21	13
Dunfermline	17	3	7	7	19	26	13
Hearts	17	4	5	8	16	27	13
Hibernian	17	3	7	7	9	24	13
St Mirran	17	3	5	9	13	30	11

SWITZERLAND

Sion	20	9	9	2	28	18	27
Lausanne	20	8	8	4	36	27	24
Grasshoppers	19	7	9	3	25	15	23
N. Xamax	19	7	9	3	21	12	23
Lugano	20	7	9	4	24	18	23
Lucerne	19	7	7	5	26	22	21
Y.A.Bern	20	5	11	4	27	22	21
Servette	19	7	6	6	24	23	20
St.Gall	20	5	8	7	21	26	18
Aarazu	20	3	9	8	18	26	15
Wettingen	20	3	5	12	22	41	11
Zurich	20	2	6	12	20	42	10

TURKEY

Galatasaray	13	9	3	1	26	12	30
Besiktas	13	7	6	0	23	10	27
Trabzonspor	13	7	4	2	29	15	25
Aydinspor	13	5	5	3	24	18	20
Sariyer	13	5	5	3	18	15	20
Genclerbirligi	13	6	2	5	19	20	20
Gaziantepspor	13	5	3	5	16	16	18
Fenerbahce	13	4	4	5	24	27	16
Ankaragucu	13	4	4	5	17	21	16
Bakirkoyspor	13	4	3	6	22	22	15
Karsiyaka	13	4	3	6	18	25	15
Bursaspor	13	4	2	7	10	14	14
Adanaspor	13	3	5	5	15	20	14
Boluspor	13	2	6	5	16	23	12
Zevtinburnuspor	13	2	4	7	8	16	10
Konyaspor	13	3	1	9	14	25	10

WEST GERMANY

Kaiserslautern	15	9	3	3	30	20	21
Bayern Munich	15	8	4	3	37	18	20
Werder Bremen	15	8	4	3	19	11	20
Eintracht F'Furt.	15	7	5	3	24	12	19
Cologne	15	7	3	5	23	12	17
Leverkusen	15	5	7	3	21	18	17
Borussia D	15	6	5	4	18	19	17
Hamburg	15	7	2	6	21	18	16
Wattenscheid	15	6	4	5	21	22	16
Fortuna	15	4	7	4	15	19	15
Bochum	15	4	6	5	19	21	14
Borussia Mg	15	3	7	5	18	23	13
Stuttgart	15	4	4	7	20	24	12
Karlsruhe	15	4	4	7	22	29	12
St Pauli	15	2	8	5	15	23	12
Bayer Uerdingen	15	3	5	7	20	30	11
Nurnberg	15	3	4	8	18	29	10
Hertha Berlin	15	2	4	9	14	27	8

YUGOSLAVIA

Red Star	15	11	2	2	33	10	24
Partizan	16	9	3	4	28	16	20
Radnicki	16	7	4	5	15	19	17
Osijek	16	7	2	7	25	22	15
Dinamo	15	6	5	4	18	15	15
Velez	15	7	2	6	21	19	15
Proleter	15	7	2	6	17	18	15
Olimpija	16	7	2	7	19	24	15
Rijeka	15	6	4	5	16	9	14
Zemun	15	7	2	6	17	22	14
Rad	16	5	3	8	22	17	13
Buducnost	16	6	2	8	19	16	13
Zeleznicar	15	5	4	6	15	15	13
Sloboda	15	6	2	7	18	23	12
Vojvodina	15	6	1	8

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SOUTH AMERICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

CONCACAF CHAMPION CLUBS TROPHY – Final round November 12
In San Jose, California.
AMERICA (Mexico) 3
OLIMPIA (Honduras) 0
November 14
.In Santa Ana, California.
OLIMPIA (Honduras) 2 (Benet, Espinoza)
AMERICA (Mexico) 1 (Figueroa)
HT: 1-1 A two-minute goal for America put them 4-0 up on aggregate and virtually wiped out Olimpia's chances, but the latter fought back in a hotly disputed match to win 2-1, and go out of the competition on a 4-2 aggregate score. (The winners were due to meet Cuba's Pinar del Rio for the title.)

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP (for Libertadores Cup winners) First round, 1st legs October 18
In Montevideo, Uruguay PENAROL (Uruguay) 0
SANTOS (Brazil) 0

October 24
In Avellaneda, Argentina.
INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina) 1 (Insua pen.)
NACIONAL (Uruguay) 1 (Dely Valdez)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gaston Castro (Chile).
Independiente: Vargas, Barrera, Monzon, Delgado (Altamirano), Rios, Bianco, Lenguita, Insua, Bochini, Ubaldi, Alfaro Moreno.
Nacional: Sere, Tony Gomez, Revelez, Milton Gomez, Pinto Saldanha, Lemos, Saravia, Moran, Baez, Dely Valdez (E.Vargas), Ramos.

Independiente attacked most of the way, but they lacked organization and were unable to break down Nacional's solid defence.

October 26
In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Brazil) 1 (Heyder)
RACING (Argentina) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Eduardo Dluzniewski (Uruguay). **Att:** 16,000.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Balu, Paulao, Adielson, Nonato, Ademir,
Paulo Isidoro, Luiz Fernando, Ramon (Jerry), Heyder (Marzinho), Luis Gustavo.
Racing Club: Goycochea, Distefano (Sozzani), Zaccanti, Fabbri, Miguez, Lamadrid, Perez, Gimenez, Andrada, Escudero, Ortega Sanchez.

Cruzeiro were on top from the start and went ahead after 38 minutes. Then Racing's chances of a fightback were dimmed a minute later when they had Lamadrid sent off for rough play.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Argentina) 3 (Coloccini, Perazzo, Cejas)
FLAMENGO (Brazil) 1 (Luis Antonio)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Oscar Ortube (Bolivia).
Att: 2,000.
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Gomez, Cejas, Coloccini, MacAllister, Ortega, F. Batista, Cabrera (Netto), Hernandez, Perazzo, Rentera (Mogrovejo).
Flamengo: Neneca, Josimar, Junior Bahiano, Edmilson, Pia, Fabinho, Dias, Ze Richard, Luis Antonio, Paulo Nunes (Zanon), Roberto.

Flamengo offered little resistance except for a time after the break when they scored their goal in a poor, boring match.

October 31
In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Argentina) 3 (Berti, Medina Bello 2)
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Brazil).
River Plate: Passet, Diaz, Higuain, Medina, Gordillo, Vazquez, Gutierrez, Borrelli, Berti, Decoud (Rossi), L. Fernandez (Medina Bello).
Olimpia: Almeida, Caceres, M. Ramirez, Chamas, Suarez, Balbuena, Guasch, Monzon, Gonzalez (C.Cubilla), Amarilla, Samaniego.

River Plate fielded a reserve team to rest first teamers for their domestic championship as they did not put much importance on this cup tournament and their 3-0 victory over the new Libertadores Cup holders, who fielded a full team, was the surprise of the round. But first teamer Medina Bello made a big difference when he came on shortly after the break to score twice in two minutes on the half-hour..

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Brazil) 1 (Pratola o.g.)
ESTUDIANTES DE LA PLATA (Argentina) 0
HT:0-0. Ref: Carlos Maciel (Paraquay).
Gremio: Gomes, Alfinete, Joao Marcelo, Wilson, Helcio, Joao Anthonio (Darci), Jandir, Caio, Mauricio, Nilson, Assis.
Estudiantes: Yorno, Craviotto, Irbarren, Pratola, Erbin, Peinado, Gonzalez, Trotta, Commisso, Luna (Mac Allister), Centurion (Loza).

Estudiantes defended for an away draw and seemed to be getting away with it until defender Pratola put through his own goal while trying to clear the ball 12 minutes from the end. By then Estudiantes were already playing a man short. Craviotto received his marching orders after 73 minutes and eight minutes later Wilson (Gr) and Mac Allister (ELP) were sent off for fighting.

November 7
First round, 2nd legs .In Asuncion, Paraquay.
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 3 (Samaniego, Monzon, Amarilla)
RIVER PLATE (Argentina) 0
HTR: 2-0. **Ref:** Hernan Silva (Chile).
Olimpia: Almeida, Caceres, M. Ramirez, R. Fernandez, Suarez, Balbuena, Monzon, Guasch (Villalba), C. Cubilla, Amarilla, Samaniego.
River Plate: Passet, H. Diaz, Higuain, Medina, Enrique, Vazquez (Da Silva), Gutierrez, Astrada, Berti, Silvani, L. Fernandez (Medina Bello).

This time River Plate's reserve team was overrun from the start by the Libertadores Cup holders who tied the aggregate score with 27 minutes to go and then won on penalties. Silvani (RP) was sent off after 37 m. – Olimpia won 4-3 on penalties after 3-3 aggregate tie.

In Avellaneda, Argentina.
RACING (Argentina) 1 (Perez pen.)
CRUZEIRO (Brasil) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uruguay).
Att: 20,000.
Racing: Goycochea, Distefano, Zaccanti, Fabbri, Miguez, Andrada, Perez, Paz, Ortega Sanchez, Escudero, Gimenez (Homann).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Balu, Paulo Pinta, Gilmar, Nonato, Paulo Isidoro (Heyder), Ademir, Luis Fernando, Roberson, Luis Gustavo, Ramon.

Racing did most of the attacking without creating many chances as their moves lacked surprise and organisation. They tied the aggregate score with a penalty just before half-time and then won on post-match penalties with their Argentine World Cup hero goalkeeper, Goycochea, again making the vital save. – Racing won 4-2 on penalties after 1-1 aggregate tie.

November 8
In Montevideo, Uruguay.
NACIONAL (Uruguay) 2 (Cabrera, Lemos)
INDEPENDIENTE (Argentina) 1 (Artime)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jose Wright (Brazil). **Att:** 25,000.
Nacional: Sere, Tony Gomez, Milton Gomez, Revelez, Pintos Saldanha, Lemos, Saravia, Moran, Dely Valdez, (Baez), Cabrera (Vargas), Ramos.
Independiente: Vargas, Altamirano, Monzon, Rios, Meijide (Artime), Bianco, Lenguita, Insua, Ruy Diaz, Ubaldi, Alfaro Morfeno.

Nacional took a first half lead when neither of the teams had done much to deserve a goal. Overall, the Uruguayan team did deserve victory however as they fought more in attack. Independiente had Monzon and Insua sent off in the last five minutes. – Nacional won 3-2 on aggregate.

In La Plata Argentina.
ESTUDIANTES DE LA PLATA (Argentina) 2 (Trotta, Peinado)
GREMIO (Brazil) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Enrique Marin (Chile).
Estudiantes: Yorno, Ramirez, Iribarren, Pratola, Erbin, Trotta, Peinado, Commisso, Capria (Aredes), Bello (Sanelli), Centurion.
Gremio: Gomes, Alfinete, Joao Marcelo, Ion, Helcio (Biro Biro), Joao Antonio, Jandir, Caio, Mauricio, Nilson, Assis.

In a rough match in which seven players were sent off – three from Estudiantes and four from Gremio – Estudiantes scored their second goal four minutes from the end to win the tie on aggregate. As the players were sent off in pairs, the teams were evenly matched until two minutes from the end. – Estudiantes won 2-1 on aggregate.

In Santos, Brazil.
SANTOS (Brazil) 2 (Mendoza 2)
PENAROL (Uruguay) 2 (Lopez, Baran)
HT: 2-1.
Santos: Pizeli, Camilo, Pedro Paulo, Luis Carlos, Flavinho, Derval, Axel, Edu, Almir, Mendonca, Serginho.
Penarol: Alvez, Dominguez, Trasante, Montero, Mendez, Silvera, C. Sanchez, J. Rodriguez, Paz, Billardo, Lopez.

Penarol, apparently lost in the field at the start, soon settled down to take a 21-minute lead, but two goals in two minutes by Mendonca put Santos ahead. The Brazilians then tried to defend their lead and almost succeeded. Baran netted seven minutes from the end to tie the (aggregate) score again and Penarol won the penalty shootout with Alvez stopping two shots. – Penarol won 4-2 on penalties after 2-2 aggregate tie.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Brazil) 3 (Nelio, Renato, Gaucho)
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Argentina) 1 (Hernandez)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Estanislao Barrentos (Paraguay). **Att:** 3,000.
Flamengo: Neneca, Josimar, Fernando, Rogerio, Pla, Fabinho (Ze Richardo), Djalminha (Luiz Antonio), Marcelino, Renato, Gaucho, Nelio.
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Gomez, Caceres, Coloccini, Mac Allister, Ortega, Cabrera (Cagna), F. Batista, Hernandez, Vidal Gonzalez, Rentera (Mogrovejo).

Argentinos Juniors went out to defend a 3-1 first leg lead and were never in the hunt. Flamengo did not win by a bigger margin because their finishing was poor and Goyen made some good saves while the intense heat slowed down the game in the second half. – Argentinos Juniors won 4-3 on penalties after 4-4 aggregate tie.

November 14
Second round, 1st legs .In Montevideo, Uruguay.
PENAROL (Uruguay) 0
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) 1 (Giunta)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Brazil).
Penarol: Alvez, Dominguez, Trasante, Montero, Mendez,Silvera, Sanchez (Goncalves), Da Silva (Silvero), Paz, Baran, Villar.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Marchesini, Abramovich, Sonora, Giunta, Villarreal, Latorre (Cesar), Batistuta, Pico.

Boca Juniors deservedly won with a goal shortly before half-time and were stopped from increasing the margin by Alvez's good saves – the man of the match.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 1 (Franco)
RACING (Argentina) 1 (Ortega Sanchez)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uruguay).
Olimpia: Almeida, Caceres, Ramirez, Fernandez, Suarez, Balbuena (Franco), Guasch, C. Cubilla (Villalby), Monzon, Amarilla, Samaniego.
Racing: Goycochea, Distefano, Sozzani, Fabbri, Miguez, Lamadrid, Perez, Andrada, Paz, Homann (Meza), Ortega Sanchez (Escudero).

Racing played more defensively, but Olimpia only really got on top in the second half. Ortega Sanchez put Racing ahead in a counter-attack 11 minutes from the end and Goycochea kept the lead intact with a penalty save from dangerous scorer Amarilla a few minutes later, but Franco equalized with two minutes to go.

November 16
In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Argentina) 2 (Perez, Ortega)
NACIONAL (Uruguay) 1 (Dely Valdez)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Carlos Maciel (Paraguay).
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, F. Batista, Caceres, Coloccini, Mac Allister, Cabrera, S. Batista, Ortega, Rentera (Mogrovejo), S.
Perez Perazzo.
Nacional: Sere, Tony Gomez, Milton Gomez, Revelez, Pintos Saldanha, Lemos, Moran, Saravia (Pena), Ramos, Gabrera (Vargas), Dely Valdez.

This match was suspended after 23 minutes, with no goals, due to floodlight failure and finished on the following day when both teams went for goals and a draw would have been a fair result.

Second round, 2nd legs November 21
In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) 0
PENAROL (Uruguay) 2 (Silvera, Villar)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Hernan Silva (Chile).
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Hrabina, Abramovich, Giunta, Villarreal (C.Rodriguez), Sonora, Latorre, Graciani, Pico (Tapia).
Penarol: Alvez, Rosa, Trasante, Montero, Blanco, Silvera, Sanchez, C. Rodriguez (Villa), Paz, Baran, Lopez (Da Silva).

Penarol surprised Boca Juniors (who had beaten them 1-0 at home) with simple, effective soccer which broke down their midfield and found loopholes in defence. Boca never got their attack going and only showed fighting spirit which kept them in the match until Penarol's second goal seven minutes from the end which proved the aggregate winner. – Penarol won 2-1 on aggregate.

In Avellaneda, Argentina.
RACING (Argentina) 0
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 3 (Guasch, Amarilla, Samaniego)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Luis Carlos Feliz (Brazil).
Racing: Goycochea, Distefano, (Marini), Sozzani, Fabbri, Miguez, Lamadrid, Perez (Meza), Andrada, Gimenez, Escudero, Ortega Sanchez.
Olimpia: Almeida, Caceres, M. Ramirez, Fernandez, Suarez, Guasch, Balbuena, C. Cubilla (Sanabria), Monzon, Amarilla, Samaniego (Franco).

Olimpia were on top from the start and made good use of simple defensive errors to win easily. Racing goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea had to be taken to hospital after the game as he was completely dazed by the fireworks thrown by his own club's fans during the match. – Olimpia won 4-1 on aggregate.

In Montevideo, Uruguay.
NACIONAL (Uruguay) 3 (Vargas, Revelez, Cabrera)
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Argentina) 1 (Ortega)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gaston Castro (Chile).
Nacional: Sere, Tony Gomez, Revelez, Pintos Saldana, Moran (Vargas), Saravia, Pena, Lemos, Ramos, Cabrera, Dely Valdez.
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, F. Batista, Caceres, Coloccini, Mac Allister, C. Cabrera, S. Batista, Ortega, Rentera, Perazzo, Perez (Rodriguez).

Argentinos Juniors had to play with 10 men for most of the game – Rentera was sent off after 12 minutes – but Nacional only gained their third goal and aggregate lead in time added on for stoppages. Argentinos players thought the referee had added on too much and three of them attacked him. Police went to defend the referee and three players were detained – two for one day and a third, goalkeeper Goyen, a Uruguayan, for two days as he also attacked a policeman and was only released on payment of 5,000 dollars. – Nacional won 4-3 on aggregate.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING CONCACAF zone – First round, 2nd leg: Surinam 0 Dutch Antilles 0
(Nov.4) – Surinam won 1-0 on aggregate.

CENTRAL AMERICAN GAMES (football tournament)

Group play (Nov.21-25) – Group A: Mexico 5 Dominican Republic 1 Antigua 2 Dominican Republic 2; Mexico 8 Antigua 0 – Mexico and Dominican Republic qualify for final round. Group B: Costa Rica 4 Dutch Antilles 0; Trinidad-Tobago 3 Dutch Antilles 0; Costa Rica 5 Trinidad-Tobago 0 – Costa Rica and Trinidad-Tobago qualify.
Group C: Venezuela 2 Surinam 0; Cuba 1 Surinam 1; Venezuela 1 Cuba 0 – Venezuela and Cuba qualify.

PANAMERICAN INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (in Bogota, Colombia)

Final round: Colombia 3 Bolivia 0; Paraguay 1 Venezuela 0 (last games on October 3.)

Final standings (final round)

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Colombia	3	3	–	–	10	2	6
Paraguay	3	2	–	1	4	3	4
Venezuela	3	1	–	2	6	6	2
Bolivia	3	–	–	3	1	10	–

Top 4 (above) qualify for world championship in Italy in July, 1991 together with Mexico, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica who qualify from CONCACAF zone.

Struggling in South Africa ... Alfinete of Gremio (stripes) and Dida of Palmeiras.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

ARGENTINA: National A Division

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
River Plate	14	8	3	3	20	9	19
Newell's	14	7	5	2	23	12	19
Rosario	14	8	3	3	19	12	19
Argentinos	14	7	4	3	20	13	18
Boca Juniors	14	6	5	3	16	11	17
DC Oeste	14	4	8	2	13	10	16
Estudiantes	14	5	5	4	14	12	15
Velez	13	4	7	2	17	11	15
Talleres	14	6	3	5	17	17	15
Huracan	14	4	6	4	16	15	14
Chaco	14	5	3	6	14	16	13
Independiente	14	4	5	5	14	16	13
Mandiyu	14	4	5	5	12	13	13
San Lorenzo	13	3	7	3	10	13	13
Racing	14	1	10	3	15	16	12
Gimnasia	14	1	9	4	9	17	11
Dep Espanol	14	3	5	6	14	17	11
Union	14	3	4	7	13	14	10
Platense	14	2	5	7	11	20	9
Lanus	14	1	3	10	8	25	5

Relegation bottom placings (average points over last three seasons): Dep.Manidyu 0,91; Union Santa Fe 0,88; Chaco For Ever 0,86; Platense 0,86; Lanus 0,35.

BRAZIL: National Championship (2nd round) – Final standings:
Group A: 1. Santos 11 points; 2. Bahia 11; 3. Vasco da Gama, Bragantino 10; 5. Goias 9; 6. Portuguesa, Internacional (Porto Alegre), Botafogo, Corinthians 8; 10. Atletico Mineiro 7.
Group B: 1. Palmeiras 15; 2. Sao Paulo 13; 3. Flamengo, Gremio 12; 5. Cruzeiro 9; 6. Fluminense, Sao Jose, Nautico Recife 8; 9.Vitoria (5 pts deducted) 3; 10. Internacional (Limeira) 2. (Top team of each group qualifies for quarterfinals).

Final overall standings

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Gremio	19	9	7	3	25	13	25
At Mineiro	19	7	0	3	19	16	23
Corinthians	19	8	6	5	17	18	22
Sao Paulo	19	8	6	5	19	13	22
Santos	19	7	8	4	19	13	22
Bahia	19	7	8	4	20	12	22
Bragantino	19	7	8	4	19	16	22
Goias	19	7	7	5	22	19	21
Palmeiras	19	8	5	6	21	18	21
Cruzeiro	19	8	5	6	21	18	21
Flamengo	19	7	6	6	24	18	20
Botafogo	19	7	4	8	17	18	18
Vasco	19	3	12	4	15	15	18
Nautico	19	4	10	5	13	18	18
Sao Jose	19	3	9	7	10	20	15
Fluminense	19	5	5	9	19	24	15
Inter PA	19	4	7	8	19	23	15
Vitoria (x)	19	4	7	8	15	22	10
Inter Limeira	19	4	2	13	9	25	10

(x) Vitoria loses five points. Top four, apart from already qualified, in quarterfinals - Corinthians, Sao Pablo, Bragantino. 1st round qualifiers: Gremio, Atletico Mineiro.

ECUADOR: First Division – quarterfinal stage (final standings)
Group A

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Nacional	6	2	4	–	9	6	9.5
LDU	6	2	3	1	13	8	7.0
Depo Quito	6	1	3	2	6	8	6.5
Depo Cuenca	6	1	2	3	5	9	4.0
Group B							
Emelec	6	3	2	1	8	5	9
Barcelona	6	3	2	1	9	5	8
Delfin	6	2	1	3	4	5	5
Uni Catolica	6	–	3	3	1	7	4

Top two of each group in semifinals – Bonus points from previous stages: Nacional 1.5, Dep.Quito 1.5, Emelec 1, Univ. Catolica 1.

COLOMBIA: Professional League
Final overall standings (top 8 qualify for final round): 1. America 59 points; 2. Independiente Medellin 50; 3. Bucaramanga 49; 4. Nacional Medellin 47; 5. Deportivo Cali 46; 6. Independiente Santa Fe 45; 7. Quindio 44, 8. Cristal Caldas 43; 9. Millonarios 41; 10. Pereira 39; 11. Tolima 33; 12. Atletico Junior 31; 13. Union Magdalena 27; 14. Sporting, Cucuta 23.
Final round (semifinals Group A

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Bp	Pts
America	6	3	1	2	8	4	2	9
Bucara	6	3	–	3	10	12	0.5	6.5
Deport C	6	3	–	3	9	12	0.25	6.25
Deport Q	6	2	1	3	7	7	–	5
Group B								
Nacional	6	2	3	1	4	3	0.5	7.5
Santa F	6	2	2	2	7	7	0.75	6.75
Cristal	6	2	2	2	9	9	–	6
Medellin	6	1	3	2	5	6	0.75	5.75

Bp – Bonus points obtained for finishing in leading positions of earlier rounds

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Colo Colo	21	12	8	10	43	12	34
Univ.Catolica (x)	21	10	8	3	51	28	29
Dep.Concepcion	21	9	7	5	31	30	25
Un Espanola (x)	21	8	8	5	39	22	25
Palestino	21	9	6	6	36	26	24
O'Higgins (x)	21	10	2	9	36	34	23
Cobreloa	21	9	5	7	31	30	23
La Serena	21	6	9	6	25	32	21
F Vial	21	4	11	5	20	29	19
Cobresal	21	5	8	8	24	32	18
Everton	21	4	9	8	20	29	17
Naval	21	5	7	9	18	32	17
Dep. Iquique	21	6	5	10	31	38	17
U de Chile	21	5	7	9	23	28	17
Wanderers	21	4	9	8	26	37	17
Huachipato	21	2	11	8	14	29	15

.Bonus points for Colo Colo, Universidad Catolica, Union Espanola and O'Higgins.

URUGUAY: First Division

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Bella Vista	17	10	5	2	23	10	25
Nacional	16	8	6	2	18	8	22
Liverpool	17	7	7	3	19	14	21
Central Espanol	16	9	2	5	20	16	20
Penarol	17	7	5	5	20	13	19
Racing Club	17	7	5	5	18	14	19
Defensor	17	5	9	3	14	9	19
Danubio	17	6	7	4	14	12	19
Rentistas	17	3	10	4	17	16	16
Progreso	17	6	3	8	13	18	15
Cerro	17	3	8	6	9	14	14
Wanderers	17	4	5	8	12	17	13
River Plate	17	3	4	10	11	26	10
Huracan Buceo	17	1	2	14	9	27	4

VENEZUELA: First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Un de los Andes	6	3	3	–	9
Caracas FC	6	2	4	–	8
Maritimo	6	2	4	–	8
Anzoategui	6	3	1	2	7
Estudiantes	6	3	1	2	7
Minerven	6	1	5	–	7
Portuguesa	6	2	3	1	7
Italia	6	1	4	1	6
Lara	5	2	2	1	6
Mineros Guyana	6	2	2	2	6
Tachira	6	1	3	2	5
Zamora	6	–	4	2	4
Trujillanos	5	2	–	3	4
Maracaibo	5	1	1	3	3
Monagas	5	1	1	3	3
Valencia	6	1	–	5	2

PERU: Metropolitan Championship

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Alianza Lima	14	8	4	2	23	8	20
Sport Boys	14	8	10	–	20	13	18
Union Huaral	14	7	4	3	19	13	18
Universitario	14	5	6	3	15	10	16
Dep Municipal	14	5	6	3	16	13	16
Defensor	14	4	7	3	17	19	15
Internacional	14	4	6	4	17	15	14
Oct Espinoza	14	4	6	4	9	13	14
Sp Cristal	14	5	3	6	19	15	13
San Agustin	14	1	7	6	8	15	9
AELU	14	2	4	8	9	23	8
Meteor	14	1	5	8	11	27	7

PARAGUAY: National Championship
1st stage final standings: 1. Olimpia, San Lorenzo 6 points; 3. Atletico Triumfo 5; 4. Sportivo Luqueno, River Plate, San Juan, Cerro Porteno (Ciudad del Este) 4; 8. Caguazu, Aqyuilaban, Colegiales 3; II. Libertad 2; 12. Nacional, Coronel Sanchez, Cerro Porteno (Asuncion) 1; 15. Juventud, 12 de Junio 0.

GUATEMALA: First Division
1. Comunicaciones 37 points; 2. Chiquimulilla, Retalteca 33; 4. Municipal, Galcasa 31; 6. Suchitepequez, Escuintla 28; 8. Del Monte 22; 9. Aurora 21; 10. Deportivo Jalapa 17; 11. Tipografia 15; 12. Xelaju 14.

EL SALVADOR: First Division
1. Luis Angel Firpo 20 pts; 2. Aguila 19; 3. Marte 17; 4. San Francisco 16; 5. Tiburones 15; 6. FAS, Metapan 14; 8. Alianza 11; 9. Dragon, Cojutepeque 7.

HONDURAS: First Division
1. Espana 39 pts; 2. Marathon 38; 3. Olimpia 35; 4. Platense 27; 5. Motagua 26; 6. Vida, Victoria, Super Estrella, Tela-Timsa 21; 10. Sula 18.

MEXICO: First Division
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Morelia	8	4	2	2	14	12	10
America	8	3	4	1	8	7	10
Necaxa	8	3	2	3	17	16	8
U.A.G.	8	1	4	3	8	13	6
Santos	8	2	1	5	8	105	
Group 2							
Univ. Aut. Mexico	8	6	1	1	19	6	13
Veracruz	8	4	2	2	11	8	10
Cruz Azul	8	3	4	1	9	6	10
Correcaminos	8	1	6	1	5	7	8
Toluca	8	2	1	5	6	115	
Group 3							
Guadalajara	8	4	3	1	12	8	11
Puebla	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Queretaro	8	2	2	4	10	11	6
Irapuato	8	1	3	4	8	18	5
Univ.N L	8	1	2	5	9	154	
Group 4							
Monterrey	8	4	2	2	10	8	10
Leon	8	3	2	3	12	9	8
Atlas	8	2	4	2	9	7	8
Cobras	8	1	6	1	8	7	8
Un Guadalajara	8	2	3	3	8	13	7

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Nov 11 = Tunis – intl friendly
Tunisia 1 (Monder Msakni 46)
Finland 2 (Patelainen 44, Ari Tegelberg 75)
HT: 0-1. Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Hansal (Alg)
Tunisia: Zitoumi – Bel Naji (Mizouri 76), Hichri, Ben Yahia, Sellini – Khemiri, Nasri (Msakni 46), Mahjoubi – Maaloul, Sassi (Majeri), Rouissi.
Finland: Huttunen – Sari. Holmgren, Kanerva, Heikkinen – Touriainen (Tegelberg 65), Tarkkio, Hjelm, Lipmalen – Rinne, Mikamatti.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Nov 17 = Tirana – EC gp 1
Albania 0
France 1 (Basile Boli 23)
HT: 0-1. Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Galler (Swz)
Albania: Arapi – Leskaj (Ferko 46), Stafa, Ibro, Hodja, Lekbello, Zmijani, Demollari, Josa, Kushta, Majaci (Kacasi 56).
France: Martini – B Boli, Durand, Casoni, Blanc, Pardo, Deschamps, Sauzee, Tibeuf (Ginola 66), Ferreri, Vahirua (Angloma 82).
Michel Platini celebrated two years – bar two days – in the job of national team boss with this victory. It was a win which took French soccer minds, briefly, off the developing financial scandal threatening to engulf the domestic game. This was France's 13th game unbeaten since their World Cup qualifying defeat at Hampden in March, 1989. Both sides were weakened by injury – France being the harder hit as they lacked Vercruysse in midfield and the attacking partnership of Papin and Cantona, scorers of 24 of their last 16 goals. It took Boli 23 minutes to head France in front from a corner. Albania looked liveliest just after half-time but could do nothing to prevent a seventh successive defeat.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Nov 21 = Rotterdam – EC gp 6
Holland 2 (Danny Bergkamp 7, Marco Van Basten 19)
Greece 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 26,000. **Ref:** Nemeth (Hun)
Holland: Van Breukelen – Blind, Rutjes, De Jong, Wouters, Vanenburg, Richard Witschge, Van't Schip, Roy, Bergkamp (Winter 85), Van Basten.
Greece: Theo Papadopulos – Apostolakis, George Papadopulos, Manolas, Kalitzakis, Kofidis (Karageorgiou 56), Tsaluhides, Karapialis, Saravakos, Borbokis, Tsiantakis.
Holland responded magnificently, in the first half at least, to increasing pressures. The European champions began with a string of problems. The players had not wanted Rinus Michels back as manager; Gullit had pulled out through a mixture of illness, injury and depression; Rijkaard did not want to play for his country; Kieft walked out on the squad at the start of the week; Ronald Koeman was a long-term injury absentee, along with Van Aerle; new skipper Van Basten had just collected one four-game UEFA club game and was under threat of a another following an incident in the tunnel with Portugal skipper Veloso after the European qualifier a month earlier. Despite all that, Holland well deserved to end the Greeks' eight-game unbeaten run. Poor, not to say non-existent, marking in the Greek defence gave Bergkamp carte blanche to head home Van't Schip's right-wing cross for a classic opening goal. Then a break on the left saw Wouters burst past three half-hearted challenges to serve up a Dutch second for the coolly efficient Van Basten.

Nov 21 = Port of Spain (Trinidad) – intl friendly
United States 0
Soviet Union 0
Att: 6,000.
US: Dodd – Armstrong, Balboa, Banks, Eck – Fraser, Krumpe,
Windischmann – Kinnear, Clavajo, Vermes.
Sov Union: Uvarov – Cherchesov, Kulkov, Chernyshov, Moi – Sidelnikov, Mostovoi, Shalimov – Yuran, Kolyvanov, Dobrovolski.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24
Nov 24 = Addis Ababa – African Nations Chp gp 2
Ethiopia 0
Tunisia 2 (Mahjoubi 39, F Rouissi 41)
HT: 0-2. Att: 5,000.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Nov 25 = Valletta – Nov 25
Malta 1 (Suda 74)
Finland 1 (Holmgren 87)
HT: 0-0. Att: 6,000. **Ref:** Deda (Tur)
Malta: Cluett – Carabott, S Vella, Galea, Scerri, Buttigieg, Busuttil, R Vella, Laferla, De Giorgio, Zarb (Suda 73).
Finland: Huttunen – Rinne (Petaja 46), Heikkinen, Europaeus, Holmgren, Myyry, Litmanen, Hjelm, Tauriainen, Tarkkio (Tegelberg 75), Patelainen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5
Dec 5 = Bucharest – EC gp 2
Romania 6 (Ovidiu Sabau 2, Dorin Mateut 18, Florin Raducioiu 41 Ionut Lupescu 57, Pavel Badea 78, Dan Petrescu 85
San Marino 0
HT: 3-0. Att: 24,000. **Ref:** Kirschen (G)
Romania: Prunea – Dan Petrescu, Iovan, G Popescu, Rednic, Sabau, Mateut, Lupescu (Stanici 65), Dumitrescu (Badea 46), Lacatus, Raducioiu.
San Marino: Benedettini – Montironi, Conti, Guerra, Loris Zanotti, Toccacelli, Matteoti, Ceccoli, Francini, Passolini (Paulo Zanotti 72), Macina (Bacciochi 46).
Romania collected their first victory in their third qualifier. Predictably they dominated the game after taking the lead in the second minute when Feyenoord's Sabau converted a pass from Fiorentina's Marius Lacatus. Sabau created Romania's second for Zaragoza's Mateut. The exiles connection continued to pay off for Romania just before half-time when Lupescu, from Leverkusen, opened the way for Bari's Raducioiu to score No 3. In the second half Lupescu scored a fourth after a Lacatus free kick and substitute Pavel Badea marked his debut with a goal when he lobbed over keeper Pier Luigi Benedettini. Another Lacatus free kick provided goal No 6, headed home by Petrescu. New Romania manager Mircea Radulescu said: "There are two important things: that we won well and, after that home defeat by Bulgaria, that the players regained both their confidence and the sympathy of the crowd." Romania were, nevertheless, not at full strength. Gheorghe Hagi, for instance, was on duty for Real Madrid in the Spanish Supercup first leg against Barcelona.

OTHER MATCHES
Dec 5: England U21 0, Wales U21 0.

WORLD CLUB CUP

December 9 = Tokyo
Milan 3 (Frank Rijkaard 43, 65, Giovanni Stroppa 62)
Olimpia Asuncion 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,228. **Ref:** Wright (Brz)
Milan: Pazzagli – Baresi – Tassotti, Costacurta, Maldini (Galli 22) – Carbone, Donadoni (Guerreiri 82), Rijkaard, Stroppa – Gullit, Van Basten.
Olimpia: Almeida – Fernandez, Caceres, Guasch, R Ramirez (Chamac 48), Suarez, Hoyn (Cubilla 68), Balbuena, Monzon, Amarilla, Samaniego.
Milan outclassed the South American champions to set up a string of recors. This was the first time anyone had retained the World Club Cup since Internazionale in 1965; it was the first time a European team had managed three goals since Ajax in 1972; it was the first time Milan had scored three goals in ANY competition since last spring; and Milan thus became the first European side to win the cup three times. Gullit, surging back towards his old form, provided the long left-wing cross which Dutch colleague Frank Rijkaard headed home for goal No 1 just before half-time. Marco Van Basten saw a shot rebound from a post in the 62nd minute so Stroppa could tap home No 2. Then Van Basten, with a beautiful chip against the woodwork, created the opportunity which Rijkaard snapped up thanks to his diving, close-range header. Milan may have missed veteran midfielder Carlo Ancelloti and the 1989 World Club Cup match-winner, Alberigo Evani, but it hardly showed. Olimpia's Uruguayan coach, Luis Cubilla, said afterwards: "I've worked hard for ten years so we had a team good enough to go to Tokyo for this. Now we've lost to a superior team we have to go home and start all over again."

EUROPEAN CUPS

EUROPEAN SUPERCUP 1990

Oct 10 = Genoa – first leg
Sampdoria 1 (Mikhailichenko 31)
Milan 1 (Evani 39)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Rosa dos Santos (Portugal).
Sampdoria: Pagliuca – Mannini, Invernizzi, Pari, Lanna, L Pellegrini, Mikhailichenko, Lombardo, Branca, Mancini, Dossena.
Milan: Pazzagli – Tassotti, Costacurta, Gaudenzi, Galli, Baresi, Donadoni (Rijkaard 59), Ancelotti, Massaro, Gullit, Evani (Stroppa 70).
Milan reached out towards another European trophy as they held the holders of the Cup-winners' Cup on the first occasion the Supercup has been contested by clubs from the same country. A number of the stars who contributed to their respective European victories last season were missing because of injury. Sampdoria lacked Katanec, Cerezo, Vierchowod and Vialli while Milan missed Maldini and Van Basten and decided to use Rijkaard, because of his lack of match fitness after suspension, as a substitute.
Heavy rain over the previous few days had threatened the match but it went ahead in the end and the quality of play, conditions considered, was a tribute to both sides. Sampdoria's new Soviet attraction, Mikhailichenko, shot them ahead in the 31st minute, converting a pass from Mancini. But Milan hit back six minutes before the interval when Evani, that scorer of vital goals, volleyed home after a Donadoni corner was only half-cleared.
After the match fans fought a running battle with police; some 15 people were hurt in the incident which was followed by a remarkable public apology from the police for their over-enthusiastic use of force.

EUROPEAN SUPERCUP
Second leg – November 29

Milan 2 (Ruud Gullit 44, Frank Rijkaard 76)
Sampdoria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000 (in Bologna). **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Milan 3-1 on agg
Milan: Pazzagli – Tassotti, Baresi, Costacurta (Galli 78), Maldini – Carbone, Ancelotti, Rijkaard, Evani – Agostini, Gullit (Donadoni 73).
Sampdoria: Pagliuca – Lanna, Pellegrini, Vierchowod, Bonetti – Pari, Mikhailichenko (Dossena 67), Katanec (Branca 83), Lombardo – Vialli, Mancini.
Earlier in the week there were whispers that Milan were considering selling off Ruud Gullit. Milan denied the suggestion. They still went into this match minus one Dutchman but that was because of Marco Van Basten's suspension. Last year Milan had beaten Barcelona to win the Supercup. They were always favourites this time, after holding Sampdoria 1-1 in the first leg, and dominated the first half. One minute before half-time Massimo Agostini got his head to an Alberigo Evani corner and Gullit headed in at the far post. In the 74th minute Sampdoria thought they should have had a penalty, claiming Gianluca had been brought down by Baresi. That was the decisive moment. Two minutes later fit-again Roberto Donadoni, substituting for Gullit, caught Sampdoria on the break and served Rijkaard with the chance to score Milan's second. This was Milan's tenth international title – a record surpassing Real Madrid's nine.

U E F A CUP
Third round, first legs (November 28)

Admira 3 (Gretschnig 31, 55, Muller 36)
Bologna 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Hartmann (Hun).
Admira: Knaller – Graf, Gramann, Elsner, Artner – u Muller, Grestchnig, Dotzl, Degeorgi – E Ogris (M Binder 11; Glatzmayer 79), Marschall.
Bologna: Cusin – Biondo, Negro (Di Gia 46), Tricella, Mariani – Verga, Bonini, Detari, Cabrini – Waas (Lorenzo 65).
Hooligan trouble spoiled the match, with Austrian police being deployed at

Continued overleaf

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

half-time when some of the 2,000 travelling Italian fans tried to burst through into an enclosure of taunting Austrian supporters. Bologna, struggling in the relegation zone in the Italian first division, could not raise their game to the occasion.

Anderlecht 1 (Marc Van der Linden 74)
Borussia Dortmund 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Rosa de Santos (Por).
Anderlecht: De Wilde – Van Tiggelen, Kooiman, Rutjes, De Wolf, Musonda, Van Baekel (Crasson 72), Oliveira, Degryse, Nilis, Verheyen (Van der Linden 38).
Dortmund: De Beer – Kutowski, Quallo, Helmer, Gorlukovich, Lusch (Wegmann 77), Zorc, Rummenigge, Poschner, Mill (Strerath 20), Povlsen.
Anderlecht had most of the play but Dortmund resisted skilfully despite losing skipper Frank Mill early on because of injury. Van der Linden seized on a late defensive mistake to give the 1983 UEFA Cup-winners a narrow advantage to take to West Germany for the return. This was consolation for Van der Linden who had earlier seen a goal-bound shot blocked by the face of team-mate Oliveira.

Brondby 3 (Torben Frank 6, 66, Bent Christensen 60)
Bayer Leverkusen 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Spirin (SU).
Brondby: Schmeichel – Risager, L Olsen, Christofte, Vilfort, B Jensen, Frank (Pingel 71), J Jensen, Rasmussen, C Jensen., Christensen.
Bayer: Vollorn – Horster, Kree, Foda (Feinbier 61), Jorginho, De Keyser, Fischer (Seckler 46), Schreier, Lupescu, Thom, Kirsten.
Brondby, recently-crowned champions of Denmark, carried on against the former UEFA Cup-holders where they had left off in the two previous rounds against the West Germans of Eintracht Frankfurt and the Hungarians of Ferencvaros. Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, newly-acclaimed Danish Footballer of the Year, was never in danger.

Internazionale 3 (Lothar Matthaus 32, Andrea Mandorlini 49 Sandro Bianchi 70
Partizan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus).
Inter: Zenga – Bergomi, Mandorlini, Battistini, Ferri, Paganin, Bianchi, Berti, Klinsmann, Matthaus, Serena.
Partizan: Pandurovic – Stanojkovic, Mijalkovic, Jokanovic, Petric, Vujacic, Bogdanovic (Scepovic 63), Mijatovic, Visnjic, Djurdjevic, Stevanovic.
Inter carried far too much experience for the Yugoslavs, and were also much more expert at dealing with the treacherous San Siro pitch. Djurdjevic wasted the Slavs' best chance just before half-time.

Koln 1 (Domenico Progna og 50)
Atalanta 1 (Roberto Bordin 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel).
Koln: Illgner – Higl, Greiner, Gotz, Giske, Janssen, Baumann (Jensen 81), Ordenewitz, Banach, Sturm (Gielchen 46), Heldt.
Atalanta: Ferron – Contratto, Bigliardi, Progna, Bonacina – Stromberg, Nicolini, Pasciullo, Bordin – Evair (Porini 89), Perrone (Caniggia 84).
The Italians scored both goals in obtaining a creditable draw in the Mungersdorfer stadium.

Roma 5 (Rudi Voller 10, 44pen, 50, Manuel Gerolin 60, 75)
Bordeaux 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol).
Roma: Zinetti – Tempestilli, Nela (Piacentini 75), Berthold, Aldair, Comi, Desideri, Di Mauro, Voller, Salsano (Conti 81), Gerolin.
Bordeaux: Bell – Thouvenel, Lazarazu (Bade 66), Senac, Battiston, Deschamps, Durand, Vervoort, Kieft, Ferreri, Plancque (Fargeon 46).
Rudi Voller, West Germany's World Cup spearhead, was the hero of the night with the hat-trick which added to Bordeaux's problems. Earlier this week Bordeaux's controversial president Claude Bez resigned as a consequence of the financial scandal engulfing the club which is £24million in the red!

Torpedo Moscow 2 (Tichkov 19, Savichev 44)
Monaco 1 (Gerald Passi 56)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swz).
Torpedo: Sarichev – Polukarov, Rogovsky, Afansiev, Shustikov, Zhukov, Savichev, Grishin (Grechnev 71), Agashkov, Tishkov, Gichelov (Kuzmitsev 49).
Monaco: Ettori – Valery, Petit, Mendy, Sonor, Puel, Dib (Bijotat 77), Sauzee, Passi, Rui Barros, Diaz (Clement 46).

Vitesse Arnhem 0
Sporting 2 (Carlos Xavier 23, Fernando Gomes 36)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).
Vitesse: Van der Gouw – Straal, Bos, Thijssen, Laamers, Van der Brom, Eijer, Latuheru, Van Arum, Hilgers (Loeffen 73).
Sporting: Ivkovic – Carlos Xavier (Joao Luis 42), Leal, Venancio, Miguel, Litos, Oceano (Bozinoski 31), Douglas, Gomes, Filipe, Cadete.
Sporting hit back with skill and pace after the disappointing of being beaten by Porto in the Portuguese league at the weekend – Sporting's first defeat of the season and one which cost them the league leadership. Carlos Xavier was Sporting's match-winner. His early drive after a corner took a deflection on its way past Van der Gouw. Then Xavier supplied the right-wing cross which was glanced home by the head of veteran top scorer Fernando Gomes.

UEFA CUP
Third round, second legs (December 12)
Atalanta 1 (Egidio Nicolini 15)
Koln 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr).
Atalanta 2-1 on agg
Atalanta: Ferron – Contratto, Pasciullo, Bonacina, Bigliardi, Progna, Stromberg (Porini 61), Bordin, Evair, Nicolini, Caniggia (Perrone 88).
Koln: Illgner – Higl, Greiner, Giske, Gotz, Banach (Daschner 73), Flick, Baumann, Sturm, Heldt, Ordenewitz (Andersen 41).
Atalanta qualified for European quarter-finals for the second time in three years (the last was in the Cup-winners' Cup in 1988) thanks to this victory. Nicolini scored his fourth UEFA Cup goal of the season when he converted a pass from Argentine team-mate Claudio Caniggia – only just back to full fitness after breaking his first against Dinamo Zagreb in the first round.
Injury-hit Koln made few openings and then either their finishing was poor or Atalanta keeper Ferron was in good form.

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Brondby 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Ramos Marcos (Sp).
Played Dec 11.
Brondby 3-0 on agg
Leverkusen: Vollborn – Foda (Stamman 75), Kree, A Reinhardt (Lesniak 55), Jorginho, Lupescu, Schreier, K Reinhardt, Herrlich, Thom, Kirsten.
Brondby: Schmeichel – L Olsen, Vilfort, Ukechukwu (Pingel 75), B Jensen, J Jensen, C Jensen, Christofte, Risager, Frank, B Christiansen.

Bologna 3 (Herbert Waas 6, Antonio Cabrini 50, Paolo Negro 70)
Admira Wacker 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,500. **Ref:** Tritschler (G).
Bologna 6-5 on pens: 3-3 agg
Bologna, next to bottom in the league, secured another remarkable escape when they pulled back a three-goal first leg deficit.

Monaco 1 (Diaz 83)
Torpedo 2 (Tishkov 70, Gichelov 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Lanese (It).
Torpedo 4-2 on agg
Monaco: Ettori – Valery, Sonor, Petit, Mendy (Bijotat 55), Dib, Rui Barros, Sauzee, Weah, Diaz, Passi (Fofana 61).
Torpedo: Sarichev – Polukarov, Kalaishev, Grishin (Soloviev 85), Rogovskoi, Shustikov, Zhukov (Gitselov, Tishov, Savichev, Shirinbegov.

Bordeaux 0
Roma 2 (Rudi Voller 72pen, Stefano Desideri 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe).
Roma 7-0 on agg
Roma had no problems completing the rout of the crisis-hit French club currently in the eye of an under-the-counter expert.
Bordeaux controlled most of the game but Wim Kieft and Christophe Dugarry both wasted openings. Bordeaux, remarkably, played from the 30th minute with ten men after the expulsion of Cameroon keeper Joseph-Antoine Bell for a professional foul on the onrushing Voller.

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Sergei Gorlukovich 49, Michael Schulz 79)
Anderlecht 1 (Alain Van Baekel 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,100. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Anderlecht on away goals: agg 2-2
Dortmund: De Beer – Helmer, Gorlukovitch, Quallo, Schulz, Lusch, Kutowski, Rummenigge, Poschner (Nikolic 66), Rummenigge, Povlsen.
Anderlecht: De Wilde – Van Tiggelen, Kooiman, Rutjes, De Wolf, Musonda, Van Baekel (Van Loen 82), Oliveira (Verheyen 65), Degryse, Nilis, Crasson.
A dramatic night saw Anderlecht squeeze through. Alain Van Baekel headed them in front from close range after a crossfield move pulled the Dortmund defence apart. A superb goal from substitute Gorlukovich brought Dortmund on terms but a further fine goal, from Schulz, wrapped up the night and left Anderlecht with a quarter-final place.

Partizan 1 (Goran Stevanovic 63)
Internazionale 1 (Lothar Matthöus 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr).
Inter 4-1 on agg
Partizan: Pandurovic – Stanojkovic, Milanic, Jokanovic, Mijalkovic, Vujacic, Bogdanovic, Mijatovic, Visnjic, Djurdjevic (Scepovic 46).
Inter: Zenga – Bergomi, Baresi, Stingara, Taginardi, Mandorlini, Bianchi, Berti, Klinsmann, Matthaus, Serena.

Sporting 2 (Douglas 26, 67)
Vitesse Arnhem 1 (Van Arum 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng).
Sporting 4-1 on agg

Sporting's Hamilton de Sousa (right) and Vand de Broom of Vitesse in their UEFA Cup match.

Scotland's Gary McAllister tussles for the ball with Pavel Dohan of Bulgaria.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

GROUP 1:

30.05.90 Iceland v Albania	2-0
05.09.90 Iceland v France	1-2
26.09.90 Czechoslovakia v Iceland	1-0
10.10.90 Spain v Iceland	2-1
13.10.90 France v Czechoslovakia	2-1
14.11.90 Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-2
17.11.90 Albania v France	0-1
19.12.90 Spain v Albania	
20.02.91 France v Spain	
30.03.91 France v Albania	
01.05.91 Albania v Czechoslovakia	
26.05.91 Albania v Iceland	
05.06.91 Iceland v Czechoslovakia	
04.09.91 Czechoslovakia v France	
25.09.91 Iceland v Spain	
12.10.91 Spain v France	
16.10.91 Czechoslovakia v Albania	
13.11.91 Spain v Czechoslovakia	
13/20.11.91 France v Iceland	
18.12.91 Albania v Spain	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	5	2	6
Czechoslovakia	3	2	0	1	5	4	4
Spain	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Iceland	4	1	0	3	4	5	2
Albania	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

GROUP 2:

12.09.90 Switzerland v Bulgaria	2-0
12.09.90 Scotland v Romania	2-1
17.10.90 Romania v Bulgaria	0-3
17.10.90 Scotland v Switzerland	2-1
14.11.90 Bulgaria v Scotland	1-1
14.11.90 San Marino v Switzerland	0-4
05.12.90 Romania v San Marino	6-0
27.03.91 Scotland v Bulgaria	
27.03.91 San Marino v Romania	
03.04.91 Switzerland v Romania	
01.05.91 Bulgaria v Switzerland	
01.05.91 San Marino v Scotland	
22.05.91 San Marino v Bulgaria	
05.06.91 Switzerland v San Marino	
11.09.91 Switzerland v Scotland	
16.10.91 Bulgaria v San Marino	
16.10.91 Romania v Scotland	
13.11.91 Scotland v San Marino	
13.11.91 Romania v Switzerland	
20.11.91 Bulgaria v Romania	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	7	2	4
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Romania	3	1	0	2	7	6	2
San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	10	0

GROUP 3:

12.09.90 USSR v Norway	2-0
10.10.90 Norway v Hungary	0-0
17.10.90 Hungary v Italy	1-1
31.10.90 Hungary v Cyprus	4-2
03.11.90 Italy v USSR	0-0
14.11.90 Cyprus v Norway	0-3
22.12.90 Cyprus v Italy	
03.04.91 Cyprus v Hungary	
17.04.91 Hungary v USSR	
01.05.91 Italy v Hungary	
01.05.91 Norway v Cyprus	
22.29.05.91 USSR v Cyprus	
05.06.91 Norway v Italy	
28.08.91 Norway v USSR	
25.09.91 USSR v Hungary	
12.10.91 USSR v Italy	
30.10.91 Hungary v Norway	
13.11.91 Italy v Norway	
13.11.91 Cyprus v USSR	
21.12.91 Italy v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	3	1	2	0	5	3	4
Soviet Union	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Norway	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Italy	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Cyprus	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

GROUP 4:

12.09.90 N.Ireland v Yugoslavia	0-2
12.09.90 Faroe Islands v Austria	1-0
10.10.90 Denmark v Faroe Islands	4-1
17.10.90 N.Ireland v Denmark	1-1
31.10.90 Yugoslavia v Austria	4-1
14.11.90 Denmark v Yugoslavia	0-2
14.11.90 Austria v N.Ireland	0-0
27.03.91 Yugoslavia v N.Ireland	
01.05.91 Yugoslavia v Denmark	
01.05.91 N.Ireland v Faroe Islands	
14/15.05.91 Austria v Faroe Islands	
05.06.91 Denmark v Austria	
11.09.91 Faroe Islands v N.Ireland	
25.09.91 Faroe Islands v Denmark	
09.10.91 Austria v Denmark	
16.10.91 Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia	
16.10.91 N.Ireland v Austria	
13.11.91 Denmark v N.Ireland	
13.11.91 Austria v Yugoslavia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	3	3	0	0	8	1	6
Denmark	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Faroe Islands	2	1	0	1	2	4	2
N.Ireland	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Austria	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

GROUP 5:

17.10.90 Wales v Belgium	-31
31.10.90 Luxembourg v Germany	2-3
14.11.90 Luxembourg v Wales	0-1
27.03.91 Belgium v Luxembourg	
27.03.91 Belgium v Wales	
01.05.91 Germany v Belgium	
05.06.91 Wales v Germany	
11.09.91 Luxembourg v Belgium	
16.10.91 Germany v Wales	
13.11.91 Wales v Luxembourg	
20.11.91 Belgium v Germany	
17.12.91 Germany v Luxembourg	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Germany	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Belgium	1	0	0	1	1	30	

GROUP 6:

12.09.90 Finland v Portugal	0-0
17.10.90 Portugal v Holland	1-0
31.10.90 Greece v Malta	4-0
21.11.90 Holland v Greece	2-0
25.11.90 Malta v Finland	2-2
19/23.12.90 Malta v Holland	
23.01.91 Greece v Portugal	
09.02.91 Malta v Portugal	
20.02.91 Portugal v Malta	
13.03.91 Holland v Malta	
17.04.91 Holland v Finland	
16.05.91 Finland v Malta	
05.06.91 Finland v Holland	
11.09.91 Portugal v Finland	
09.10.91 Finland v Greece	
16.10.91 Holland v Portugal	
30.10.91 Greece v Finland	
20.11.91 Portugal v Greece	
04.12.91 Greece v Holland	
22.12.91 Malta v Greece	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Greece	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Holland	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Finland	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Malta	2	0	1	1	2	6	1

GROUP 7:

17.10.90 England v Poland	2-0
17.10.90 Rep.of Ireland v Turkey	5-0
14.11.90 Rep.of Ireland v England	1-1
14.11.90 Turkey v Poland	0-1
27.03.91 England v Rep.of Ireland	
17.04.91 Poland v Turkey	
01.05.91 Turkey v England	
01.05.91 Rep.of Ireland v Poland	
16.10.91 Poland v Rep.of Ireland	
16.10.91 England v Turkey	
13.11.91 Turkey v Rep.of Ireland	
13.11.91 Poland v England	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep.of Ireland	2	1	1	0	6	1	3
England	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Poland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Turkey	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

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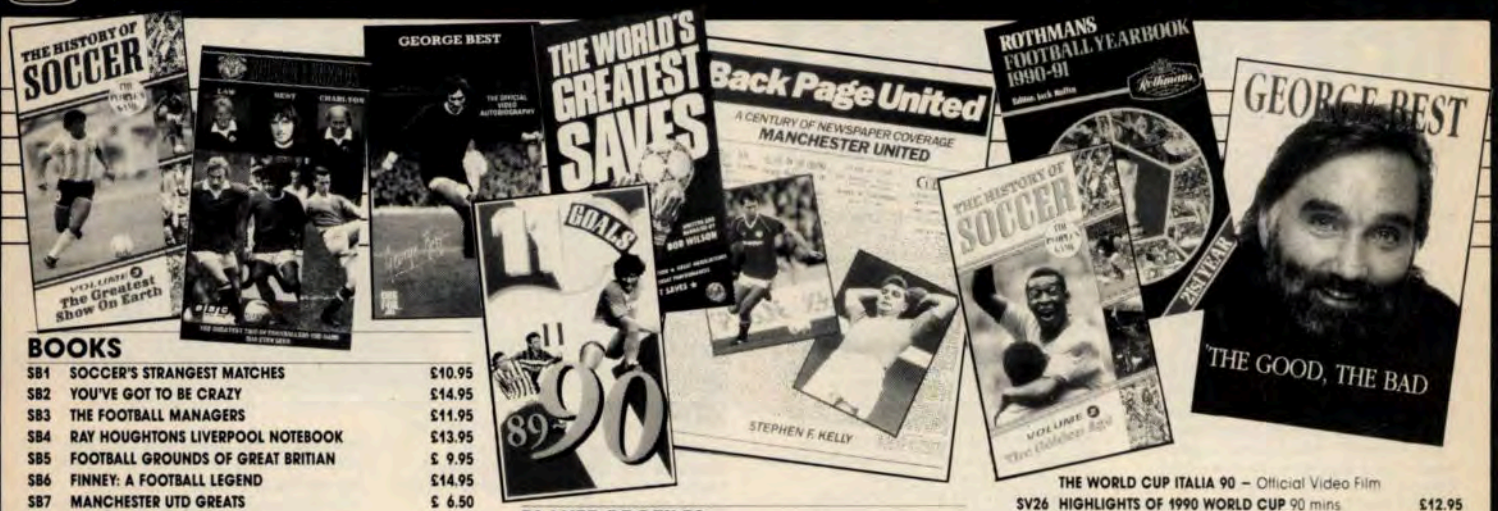

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DALGLISH BACKS THE WRONG HORSE FOR ONCE

BY DERICK ALLSOP

THE CAUTIOUS approach may have cost England and Liverpool vital points in their European and championship quests. It has certainly cost them widespread criticism.

Just as England chose to leave out Paul Gascoigne against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin, so Liverpool discarded Peter Beardsley for the top of the table encounter at Arsenal.

The international produced another tedious 1-1 draw though manager Graham Taylor can at least claim he "got a result". But Kenny Dalglish's team were subjected to their first League defeat of the season.

That Highbury result was generally well received because it effectively breathed new life in to a title contest that had been waning with every confident, purposeful stride by Liverpool.

Dalglish stands by the "horses for courses" strategy that has paid dividends in the past, and he points to two crucial decisions that went Arsenal's favour and sent them on the way to a 3-0 win.

The referee was satisfied that the ball had crossed the line as Liverpool's defence made desperate attempts to keep out the first goal, then awarded a penalty when Swedish international Anders Limpar tumbled as he was challenged by Gary Gillespie. Arsenal's third, brillantly created by Paul Merson's back heel and converted by Alan Smith, was merely garnishing.

The fact remains, however, that this was a woefully uninspiring performance from the team we expect to see setting the standards in the English game.

Their football through the autumn has been magnificent and Beardsley had been perhaps the outstanding player. His contribution to the championship defence was 11 goals and consistently imaginative support play. Ian Rush, in particular, had thrived on his service.

Against Arsenal Rush was a lonely, forlorn figure, only once finding the opportunity to run on to the kind of throughball Beardsley provides.

Dalglish felt the little England forward would be stifled by an Arsenal defence employing three lanky central men. The evidence of the match suggested Beardsley's nimble skills might have represented the most potent weapon, the counter, and confuse that back trio. Amazingly, Dalglish didn't even give himself the obvious option by naming Beardsley as a substitute.

It wasn't the first time Beardsley had been the victim of Dalglish's tactical shuffle and this time he could not contain his inevitable disappointment and frustration.

Beardsley admitted he wasn't surprised to be left out again and said: "I don't know what more I can do to keep a regular place."

A defiant Dalglish said: "It would not have made any difference if Peter Beardsley had played. We have not done ourselves justice. They played their football much better than we played ours. But we are still in the position everybody else wants."

Heaviest

Arsenal look the most serious threat to the Mersey men, as they were two seasons ago. Despite having two points docked after the much publicised dust-up with Manchester United, they were within striking distance again and the only unbeaten team in the division.

They, like Liverpool, ran into Cup specialists United on an extraordinary night. Lee Sharpe scored a hat-trick as Alex Ferguson's side recovered from a 3-2 home defeat by Chelsea in the League. It was Arsenal's heaviest post-war defeat at Highbury.

But they regrouped and gave manager George Graham the display he demanded of them. "This performance did not surprise me," he said. "We have played better football in other matches but when you consider the opposition it makes it better. It was a good performance in all departments."

Liverpool's Venison tries to clear Merson's header ... but the referee said "Goal!" and so Arsenal went one up.

Taylor was declaring himself similarly satisfied after the draw in Ireland. Only a late header by his former signing for Aston Villa, Tony Cascarino, denied him victory.

The scorer of England's splendid goal was another of Taylor's old boys, David Platt, the player he is clearly intent on building around.

Taylor said: "I don't know what horizons David Platt can reach, but I do know what qualities he possesses. All my dealings with David have told me he has a great football brain. You ask him to do something once and he does it, immediately.

"He has a great attitude. In football, players earn acceptance from senior players and Platt has done that. Gary Lineker has become a leader in the striking role and Platt has the same capability."

Bryan Robson, the man Platt has replaced as England's driving force, has been on the comeback trail after his latest injury blows.

He was helped along by a bumper testimonial. The match against Celtic at Old Trafford – won 3-1 by the Scots – attracted a crowd of more than 41,000 and made the great man wealthier by around £300,000.

Robson appeared for the last 18 minutes of the game and followed up with an outing for United's A team.

He still hadn't made a senior, competitive appearance when Taylor called him up to lead England's B team in Algeria.

Taylor said: "What I admire about Bryan is the passion he has to make an international comeback. He has a deep desire to pull on an England shirt again.

"He doesn't just talk about the passion of playing for England, he displays it in his performances. That is not always apparent in every player."

Robson's former England colleague Terry Butcher, who lost favour at Rangers, has moved into management as player-boss of First Division Coventry City. He appointed his old Ipswich Town colleague Mick Mills as his No. 2.

Butcher said: "I have got to change now as I am a player-manager. But I am very passionate about football, and I hate losing at any level."

Peter Reid joined the growing ranks of the player-bosses the same day as Butcher, taking charge of Manchester City after Howard Kendall returned to Everton to abuse by the Maine Road fans.

Reid said: "I learned a great deal under Howard Kendall but I am very much my own man, and will never be frightened of doing things my way. I'll carry on playing as long as I can."

McPherson ... he's looking to be worth more than £1 million.

Mirth of the blues

SCOTLAND'S international managers and players are renowned for their lavish senses of humour. Everyone has had a laugh at our expense in a past littered with boobs, blunders and bedlam.

I have a recurring nightmare that Denis Norden might have the bright idea of compiling a video that would be a delight for those who thrive on diaster.

They could call it the Mirth of the Blues and could feature such outstanding feastures as the Argentina World Cup episode (remember Peru and Iran?), the 9-3 mauling at Wembley (goalkeeper Frank Haffey now stays in Australia), the 1990 World Cup opener against Costa Rica ("We'll get it right this time") and scores of other slips that are drooled over by connoisseurs of calamity.

And, yes, the Scottish international squad are at it again. Just when the ever-faithful Tartan Army are saving up at a feverish rate to go to America for the 1994 World Cup Finals (of course, Scotland WILL be there!) it looks as though Andy Roxburgh's squad might get through to the European Championship Finals FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Where on earth are the fans going to get the cash for Sweden 1992? That sense of humour is working overtime.

Scotland are sitting on top of a particularly tough group with five points from three games, having beaten Romania and Switzerland (both 2-1 at Hampden) and gained a point in the 1-1 draw with the extremely dangerous Bulgarians in Sofia. They are clearly in the driver's seat.

Defend

The draw in Sofia was testimony to sheer hard graft, a good, sound professional performance and flashes of skill from the likes of Gary Gillespie, Gary McAllister, Brian McClair and Ally McCoist.

Scotland tended to defend in midfield and it worked a treat. If mistakes are made in this area they are not often devastatingly costly. Defend in your penalty area and you are asking for trouble.

All credit must go to coach Andy Roxburgh and his assistants, Craig Brown and Tommy Craig. They did their homework and they got it absolutely spot on.

Remember that Bulgaria took three goals off Romania in Bucharest, and that Roxburgh had to contend with the late withdrawals of McStay, Nicol, McCall, McLeish and Robertson. All five could have been in the starting line-up.

Boyd is the international find of the season, and I'm amazed that McClair has not won more caps. You either love or loathe his style but I would always have him around.

Goram certainly looks the part in goal, and McPherson is coming on well. It's easy to see why some clubs would part with over £1 million if Hearts ever decided to sell.

This Scottish squad play essentially as a TEAM. They have the old musketeers theme running through the line-up.

So nervous twitches are beginning to show in bank managers up and down the country. How are THEY going to afford Scottish fans going to Sweden AND America within two years?

Yes, Scotland could be laughing all the way to the European finals. And what happens then?

ALEX GORDON

PUNISH THE GUILTY - NOT THE CLUBS

TREVOR BROOKING

AS a New Year begins the Home Countries reflect on 1990 as the year when football benefitted enormously and now looks ahead optimistically as interest and attendances continue to grow.

The success of England and the Republic of Ireland in Italy during the World Cup was further enhanced when English clubs were at last allowed back into European club football.

Two exciting matches between Aston Villa and Internazionale emphasised what we had missed, and Manchester United still retain hopes of emulating their past success at this level.

The League championship race is very much as before, with Liverpool and Arsenal emerging as the two clear contenders.

George Graham's North London team have already made history this season when they joined Manchester United in having points deducted following a brawl between players at Old Trafford.

I still regret such a decision was made and feel the suspension for several weeks of the guilty players was the better alternative.

Elsewhere Terry Venables has desperately tried to sustain the challenge of his entertaining Spurs side, but appears severely restricted by the club's financial problems which gain just as many headlines as their football.

Crystal Palace and Wimbledon have spotlighted the progress being made in South London too, emphasising that recent FA Cup Final appearances can spin off to more consistency in the League.

Of the promoted clubs, Leeds have impressed everyone with their style, and while Sunderland remain unpredictable, poor Sheffield United already look doomed to relegation.

In the Second Division my old club West Ham broke their 18-game unbeaten record and look sure to go up with Oldham.

Favourites for the third automatic place would appear to be Sheffield Wednesday.

Up in Scotland Rangers overshadow most, and with Celtic disappointing Aberdeen and Dundee United try to upset the form book.

The third round of the FA Cup is about to get under way and surely it can't be as dramatic as last year, when Crystal Palace and Oldham performed such heroics.

Holders Manchester United received a rare home tie with struggling QPR, while beaten finalists Crystal Palace have the match of the round by welcoming Nottingham Forest to Selhurst Park.

Last month I mentioned the problems occurring with the interpretation of the professional foul and sadly it is a situation that is not improving.

Referees must sit down together and formulate a consistent approach so that a common guideline can be reached.

Crucial

I was present at the very harsh dismissal of Arsenal's Tony Adams at Luton, where there was certainly no clear indication that the tackle was a deliberate, cynical challenge.

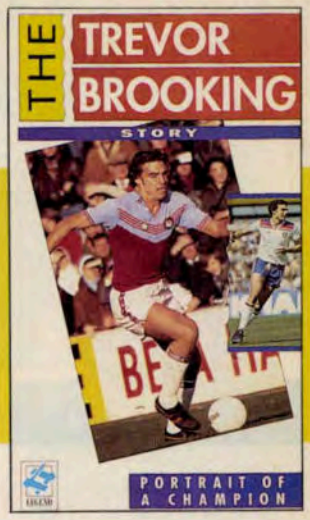
The early results in the European Championship were very encouraging for the home players. England and Eire face a crucial match at Wembley in March, but their visits to Poland later in the year are just as demanding.

Scotland have been stretched by injuries and withdrawals and yet despite this have surprised everyone with a convincing start which gives them a strong base to build on.

Wales, too, have begun splendidly by defeating Belgium, but it will still take a tremendous upset if they are to overcome West Germany.

Northern Ireland continue to blood their younger players, and group leaders Yugoslavia look likely to be one of the favourites come Sweden in 1992.

Happy New Year to you all and good luck to your own team.



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Wright of Palace (stripes) clashes with Blackwell of Wimbledon at Selhurst Park.

WELSH PROVIDE A WARM-UP

THE Republic of Ireland will Wales in Wrexham on February 6, in a warm-up game before the vital European Championship match against England at Wembley on March 27.

Jack Charlton sees the improving Welsh as ideal opponents and reckons that he has a better chance of having his players released from their English clubs for a game against Wales than a trip to Cyprus or Egypt.

The Welsh were Charlton's first opponents when he took over the Irish team four years ago, and are the only country to beat the Irish in Dublin under his management.

A Bernie Slaven goal preserved the Republic's great home run in their last meeting, at Lansdowne Road in March.

The Republic will play a home friendly against Belgium on May 22, followed by a tour of the USA, with possibly two games against the national team, and a match against Holland in September.

A nine-year-old County Wicklow girl has taken the FAI to court.

Audrey Dutton, like many more Irish girls enjoyed playing with her local club, Fassaroe Celtic, but earlier this year the FAI ruled that girls were not eligible to play schoolboy football.

The Employment Equality agency, helped Audrey present her case to the Labour Court, and findings will be published this month.

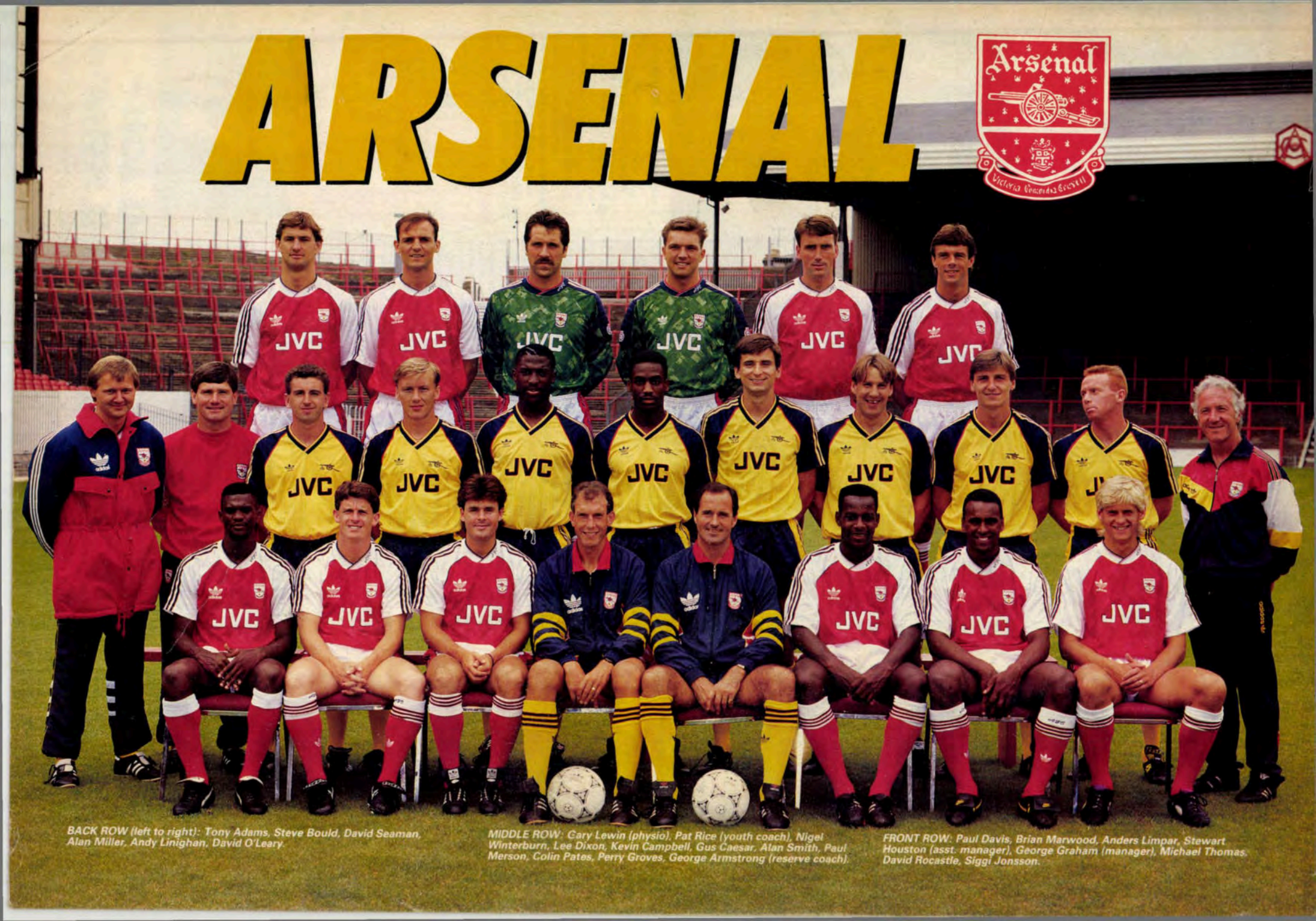
One of the proudest unbeaten runs in Irish Soccer finished at the end of 1990. The Home Farm under-17 team, who had not lost a competitive game for seven years, were beaten by Belvedere Boys FC after a run of 205 games.

Drogheda United, relegated from the Premier Division of the League of Ireland last season, could be coming straight back up.

Last season United had joint managers in Synan Braddish and Liam Brien. Braddish has now joined Kilkenny City as a player and Brien is in sole charge.

SEAN CREEDON

ARSENAL



BACK ROW (left to right): Tony Adams, Steve Bould, David Seaman, Alan Miller, Andy Linighan, David O'Leary.

MIDDLE ROW: Gary Lewin (physio), Pat Rice (youth coach), Nigel Winterburn, Lee Dixon, Kevin Campbell, Gus Caesar, Alan Smith, Paul Merson, Colin Pates, Perry Groves, George Armstrong (reserve coach).

FRONT ROW: Paul Davis, Brian Marwood, Anders Limpar, Stewart Houston (asst. manager), George Graham (manager), Michael Thomas, David Rocastle, Siggi Jonsson.